



Houston Almanac



4th Edition



August 2003





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City Controller

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City Council Members

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• Preface •

The Almanac is a periodic publication containing facts about the City of Houston. Each of the ten chapters contains a concise analysis of a major area of life ranging from the economy to cultural highlights. Wherever feasible the Almanac draws comparisons between Houston and other major metropolitan areas.

Chapter 1, People of Houston, explores demographic trends such as the relative youth of the city (median age is 31) and the diversity of cultural and ethnic groups represented in the city. In 2000, Whites make up 31% of the population, Hispanics 37%, and Blacks 25%.

With such a diverse population, it should not be surprising that Houston has an equally wide range of cultural and recreational opportunities. These highlights are outlined in Chapter 2, Culture and Recreation. Houston's downtown theater district is second only to New York in the number of concentrated theater seats, and offers world class fine arts performances to its residents. In addition, the city is home to 16 major museums and more than 20 institutions of higher learning.

Chapter 3, Housing, highlights the affordability and rapid growth of Houston's housing stock in comparison to other major metropolitan areas. With a median housing price of \$139,900 in 2000 and median rent of \$575, Houston ties San Antonio for the most affordable housing of the ten most populated metropolitan areas.

As home to the Texas Medical Center, Houston offers world class healthcare to its residents and the world. Complimenting these services are those offered by the Harris County Hospital District and the City of Houston Health and Human Services Department (Chapter 4).

Houston's land uses (explored in Chapter 5: Land Use) are most characterized by the lack of zoning and the vast area the city encompasses, 633.63 (July 2003 records) square miles. Most of the city's developed land is dedicated to single family housing (21%). Twenty-four percent of the city's total land area is vacant and undeveloped. Without zoning, market forces are free to drive location decisions.

Chapter 6 illustrates Houston's dynamic economy, which has been growing rapidly for some time. From its base as a world headquarters for the energy industry, the economy has diversified to include key players in high technology and rapid growth in manufacturing. The Port of Houston, first in the US in waterborne commerce, helps make Houston a center of world trade.

Hot summers and mild winters characterize the environment (Chapter 7). Plentiful rainfall means drought is rarely an issue. Conversely, much of the area is low-lying and within a floodplain, so heavy rains demand that the area's bayous serve as floodways.

Infrastructure (Chapter 8) highlights Houston's transportation systems and public utilities, both of which play an important role in the region's continuing economic strength. Houston's airports combine to form the fourth largest multi airport system in the US allowing connections worldwide. The continued growth of the Port of Houston insures that the facilities for increasing trade will be in place.

City Government (Chapter 9) and Public Safety (Chapter 10) highlight the structure of local government and its role in the safety of its citizens. Details on city government include budget information as well as programs, such as Town Hall Meetings that foster citizen participation. Public safety highlights the Houston Fire Department and the Police Department's philosophy of community policing.

Houston

AT A GLANCE

Comparative Census Data 1990 and 2000 City of Houston

Items	1990		2000		1990 - 2000
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	% Change
Land area (sq. miles)	581		618		6.3%
Population	1,631,766		1,953,631		19.7%
Age group					
Under 5	136,029	8.3%	160,797	8.2%	18.2%
5 - 17	300,277	18.4%	375,861	19.2%	25.2%
18 - 64	1,060,361	65.0%	1,252,908	64.0%	18.2%
65 and over	135,099	8.3%	164,065	8.4%	21.4%
Ethnicity					
Hispanics	450,556	27.6%	730,865	37.4%	62.2%
Non Hispanic Blacks	448,148	27.5%	487,851	25.0%	8.9%
Non Hispanic Whites	662,766	40.6%	601,851	30.8%	-9.2%
Non Hispanic Am/Ind & Asians	66,993	4.1%	106,620	5.5%	59.2%
Non Hispanic Others*	3,303	0.4%	26,444	1.3%	-20.9%
Total Households	617,316		717,945		16.3%
Household size	2.60		2.67		2.7%
Family households	387,909	62.8%	457,549	63.7%	18.0%
Average family size	3.33		3.39		1.8%
Educational Attainment					
Persons 25 years and over	1,005,516		1,201,154		19.5%
Less than 9th grade	142,884	14.2%	177,777	24.8%	24.4%
9th to 12th grade (no diploma)	153,945	15.3%	177,668	14.8%	15.4%
High school graduate	221,012	22.0%	245,299	20.4%	11.0%
1 - 3 years college	235,190	23.4%	276,371	23.0%	17.5%
College 4 years+	252,485	25.1%	324,039	27.0%	48.1%
Employment Status 16 years+ (includes armed forces)	1,240,127		1,472,506		18.7%
Not in labor force	380,123	30.7%	541,270	36.8%	42.4%
In labor force	860,004	69.3%	931,236	63.2%	8.3%
Employed	788,520	91.8%	859,961	58.4%	9.1%
Unemployed	70,369	8.2%	70,517	4.8%	0.2%

Continued on next page

Comparative Census Data 1990 and 2000

City of Houston cont'd

Items	1990		2000		1990 - 2000
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	% Change
Income					
Per capita income**	\$18,586 (1989)		\$20,101 (1999)		8.1%
Median household income**	\$34,244 (1989)		\$36,616 (1999)		7.0%
Median family household income**	\$39,420 (1989)		\$40,443 (1999)		2.6%
Persons below poverty level	39,420 (1989)	20.4%	369,045 (1999)	19.2%	10.8%
Families below poverty level	67,232 (1989)	17.2%	73,800 (1999)	16.0%	9.8%
Housing					
Total units	726,938		782,009		7.6%
Total occupied units	617,316	84.9%	717,945	91.8%	16.2%
Owner occupied units	275,373	44.6%	328,741	45.8%	19.4%
Renter occupied units	341,943	55.4%	389,204	54.2%	13.8%
Total vacant units	109,622	15.1%	64,064	8.2%	-41.6%
Median owner occupied housing value***	\$75,588		\$79,300		36.7%
Median contract rent	\$328		\$575		75.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 and 2000

Note: * Others include "Two or More Races" Category.

**1990 Incomes have been adjusted to inflation.

***1990 Housing values have been adjusted to inflation.

Demographic information compiled by Long Range Planning Division, Planning and Development Department, City of Houston.

Chapter 1

PEOPLE

FACTS

- ◆ **People Facts**
- ◆ **Population Size**
- ◆ **Growth and Density**
- ◆ **Age and Gender**
- ◆ **Immigration**
- ◆ **Race and Ethnicity**
- ◆ **Household Characteristics**
- ◆ **Income**
- ◆ **Education**

People

AT A GLANCE

Total Population: 1,953,631

**Houston Primary Metropolitan
Statistical Area (PMSA) 2000** 4,177,646

PMSA Counties (2000)

Harris	3,400,578
Fort Bend	354,452
Montgomery	293,768
Liberty	70,154
Waller	32,663
Chambers	26,031
PMSA Total	4,177,646

City of Houston (2000)	1,953,631
Non-Hispanic White	30.8%
Non-Hispanic African American	25.0%
Hispanic	37.4%
Non-Hispanic Asian*	5.5%
Non-Hispanic Others**	1.3%

Median Age (2000): 30.9%

Median Household Income (2000): \$36,616

Median Family Income (2000): \$40,443

Per Capita Income \$20,101

Education (2000):	
Less than 9th Grade	14.8%
9th to 12th Grade (no diploma)	14.8%
High School Graduate	20.4%
Some College (1 - 3 years)	23.0%
College or Graduate School	27.0%



The demographics of a city describe its population makeup. This overview of Houston's demography highlights its rapid growth in population since the 1900's, changing racial and ethnic composition, age structure, and gains in income levels and educational attainment in recent history. These statistics, along with comparative statistics from other cities, provide a vivid picture of the large and diverse population that makes up the city of Houston.

• Population Size •

Houston is the fourth largest city in the nation. With 1,953,631 persons in 2000, Houston trailed only New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago in population size (Figure 1-1). Of these cities, Houston is by far the fastest growing. Houston increased its population by 19.7% between 1990 and 2000, through annexation, immigration and natural increase. Houston is also the largest city in Texas, followed by San Antonio, Dallas, El Paso, and the capital, Austin.

The City is the population center of the Houston Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA), a region of six counties in 2000: Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Liberty, Chambers, and Waller. Houston represented 51% of the PMSA's population. Nearly 20% of the population in Texas resided in the Houston PMSA.

Harris County, the third most populous county in the nation and home to most of the City of Houston, contains all or parts of 34 different cities. Houston is by far the county's largest city, with over four times more residents than all other major cities in the county combined. Between 1990 and 2000 Houston had the fifth highest (19.1%) growth rate among these cities. Large suburbs just outside the Houston city limits, such as League City and Friendswood grew at a significantly higher rate than the City itself (Fig. 1-2).

Figure 1-1: Five most populous U.S. Cities, 1990-2000

City	1990 pop.	2000 pop.	% Change
New York	7,362,564	8,008,278	9.4%
Los Angeles	3,485,557	3,694,820	6.0%
Chicago	2,783,726	2,896,016	4.0%
Houston	1,631,766	1,953,631	19.7%
Philadelphia	1,585,577	1,517,550	-4.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Figure 1-2: Ten most populous Cities within Harris County

City	1990 Pop.	2000 Pop.	% Growth
Houston	1,631,766	1,953,631	19.7%
Pasadena	119,363	141,674	18.7%
Baytown	63,850	66,430	4.0%
Missouri City	36,176	52,913	46.3%
League City	30,159	45,444	50.7%
La Porte	27,910	31,880	14.2%
Deer Park	27,652	28,520	301.0%
Friendswood	22,814	29,037	27.3%
Bellaire	13,057	15,642	19.8%
West University	12,920	14,211	10.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

• Growth and Density •

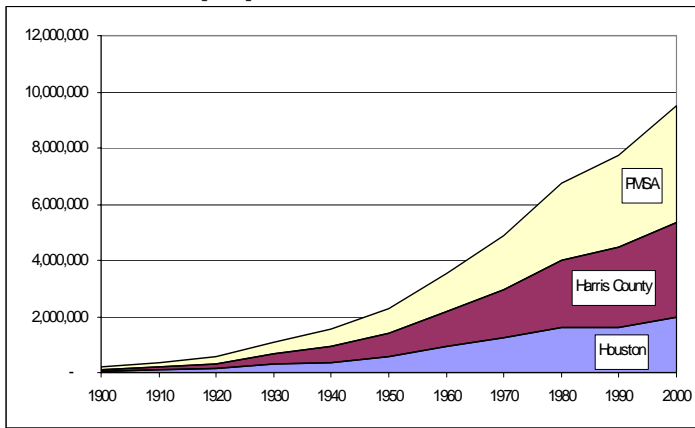
Figure 1-3: Population Estimates, City of Houston 1998-2002

Year	Estimate	Change
1998*	1,861,705	
1999*	1,879,912	1.0%
2000**	1,953,631	3.9%
2002***	1,998,325	2.3%

Source: *Texas State Data Center; **U.S. Census Bureau, 2000; ***City of Houston

Houston is well known as one of the nation's few modern day boom towns, experiencing rapid growth throughout much of the century. This steady growth was most recently interrupted during Houston's economic recession of 1982-87, when the City lost 35,000 residents. By 1990, however, Houston had compensated for this loss by gaining 72,000 new residents. Houston has continued to grow ever since, gaining over 321,865 new residents between 1990 and 2000.

**Figure 1-4:
Decennial population**



Source: Adapted from the U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000

During the 1990's, The City as well as the outlying areas of Harris County and the five surrounding counties (PMSA) continued to grow at a rapid rate (Figure 1-4). In 2000, the Houston PMSA was one of the fastest growing PMSAs with a population of one million or more. The Houston PMSA ranked 7th in decennial growth, ranking between Detroit and Dallas.

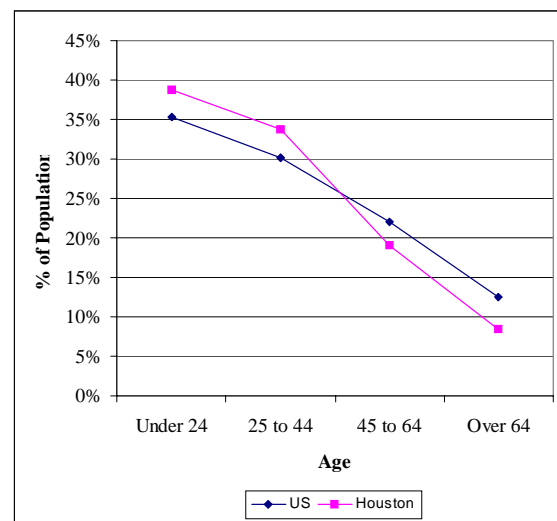
This strong trend towards population growth in areas outside the city limits, coupled with a series of annexations, gives Houston one of the lowest population densities of any major city in the nation. Houston's geographic area totaled 581.4 square miles in 1990, and grew to 619.96 square miles by the end of 2002, by far the largest of the nation's ten most populous cities. State legislation and public sentiment make any future annexations other than minor adjustments unlikely.

• Age and Gender •

While Houston's even gender distribution (50.1% female, 49.9% male) closely reflects the national average, its age distribution indicates a city with an unusually young population.

Houston's 0-24 year old group made up 39% of the population and 25-44 year olds made up 34%. These groups accounted for only 35% and 30% respectively of the U.S. population. As further proof of Houston's youth, persons 65 and over made up only 8% of Houston's population, but a full 12% of the U.S. population (Figure 1-5). Accordingly, the median age of City residents (31) was 4 years less than the national median (35) in 2000.

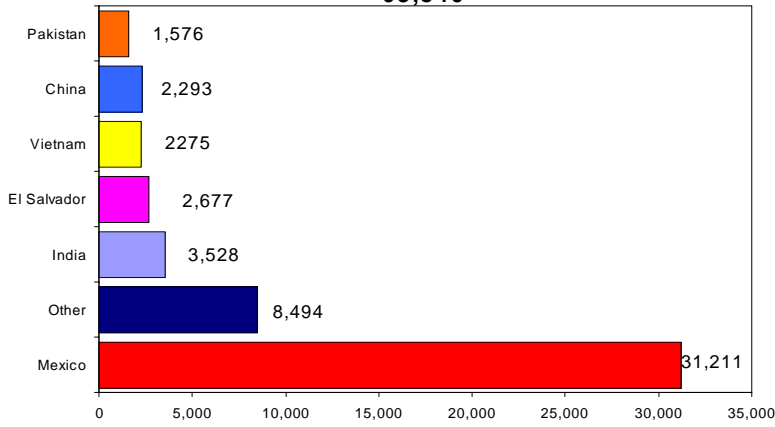
**Figure 1-5:
Population Age Distributions: City
of Houston vs. United States**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

• Immigration •

Figure 1-6:
Houston Immigrants' Top
Countries of Origin, 2000
Total Legal Immigration 2000
63,840



Source: Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration & Naturalization Service, 2000

Paralleling national trends, Houston's legal immigration has been declining, from 75,533 in 1992 to 63,840 in 2000. The largest group of legal immigrants are of Mexican origin, and represented 50.2% of the total legal immigration to Houston in 2000. The countries with the next largest immigrant representation are Other, India, El Salvador, Vietnam, People's Republic of China and Pakistan (Figure 1-6)..

Illegal immigration is more difficult to track, but the INS estimates that Texas is home to the second largest population of illegal immigrants in the country. The majority of these are of Mexican origin.

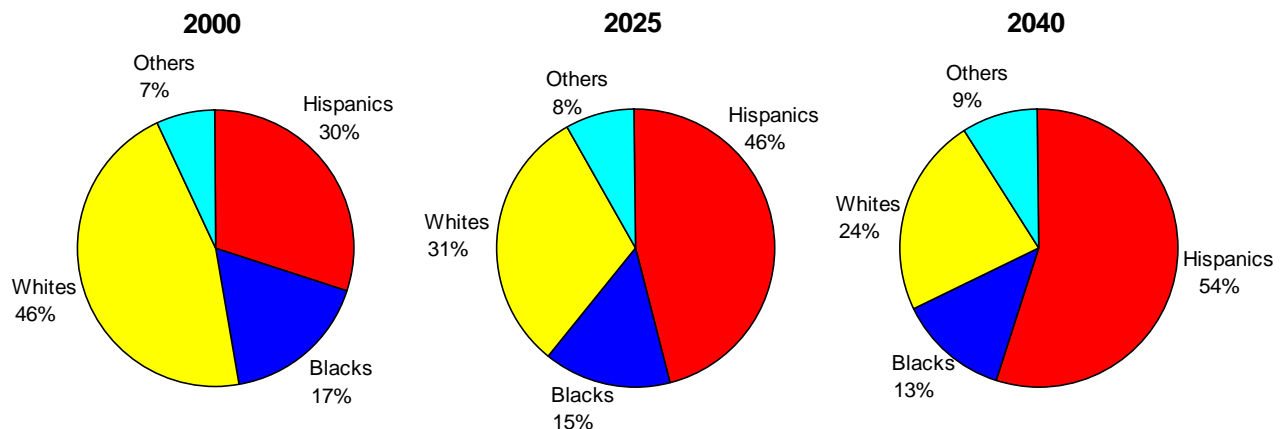
• Race and Ethnicity •

To measure diversity, the U.S. Census Bureau uses both race and ethnicity. *Race* refers to the major categories of Black, Anglo, and Asian-Pacific Islanders, and *ethnicity* refers to the two cultural categories of Hispanic and non-Hispanic (of any race). More commonly, these two descriptions are used in tandem to describe a population group made up of Anglos, Blacks, Hispanics, and Others (most often Asians).

In 2000, Anglos were the dominant racial group in the Houston PMSA, with a majority of 46%. Blacks made up 17% of the population,

Hispanics 30%, and Others 7%. However, projections indicate that while a small change in Black population shall occur, the Anglos population will slowly lose its majority, and the Hispanic population will continue to grow over the next 40 years. The Texas State Data Center projects that Hispanics will represent 46% of the PMSA population by the year 2025, increasing to 54% by 2040. Within the City itself, minority populations are even larger. 2000 census indicate population that is 30.8% Anglo, 24.9% Black, 37.4% Hispanic, and 6.8% Others. In short, Houston is a truly multi-ethnic, multi-racial metropolis.

Figure 1-7:
Houston Area Population by Race/Ethnicity: 2000-2040



Source: Adapted from the Texas State Data Center, 2001.

Figure 1-8: Non-Hispanic White population, 2000

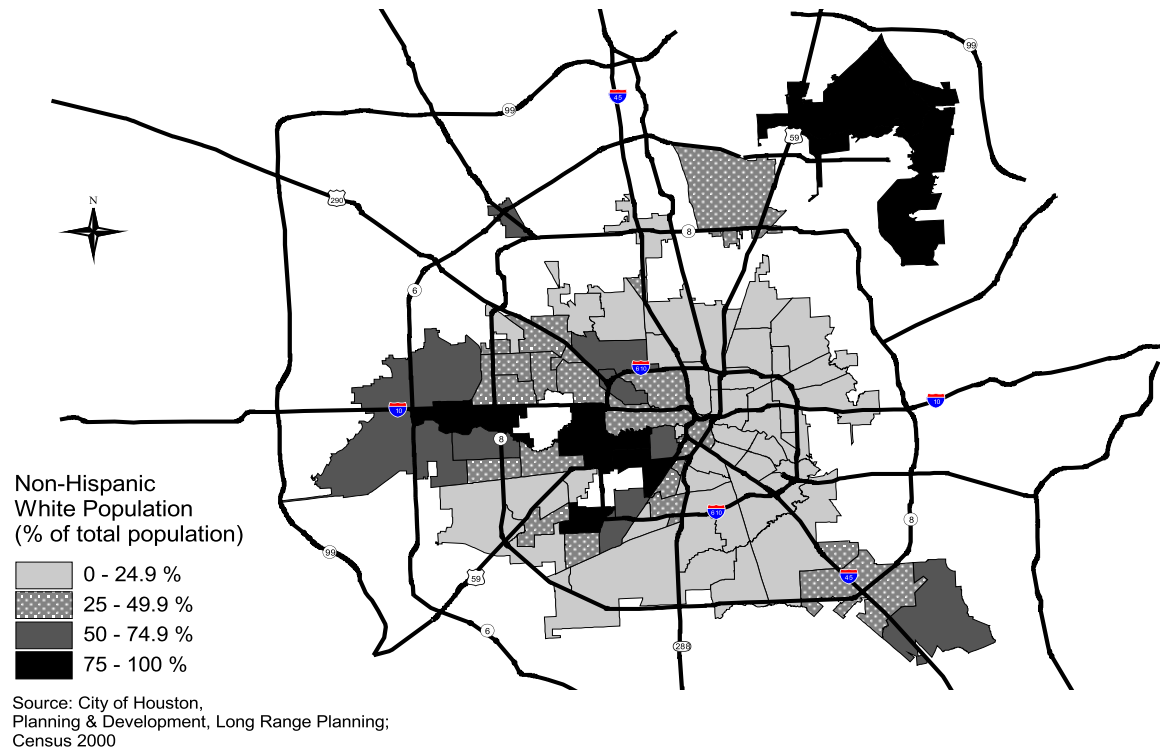


Figure 1-9: Non-Hispanic Black population, 2000

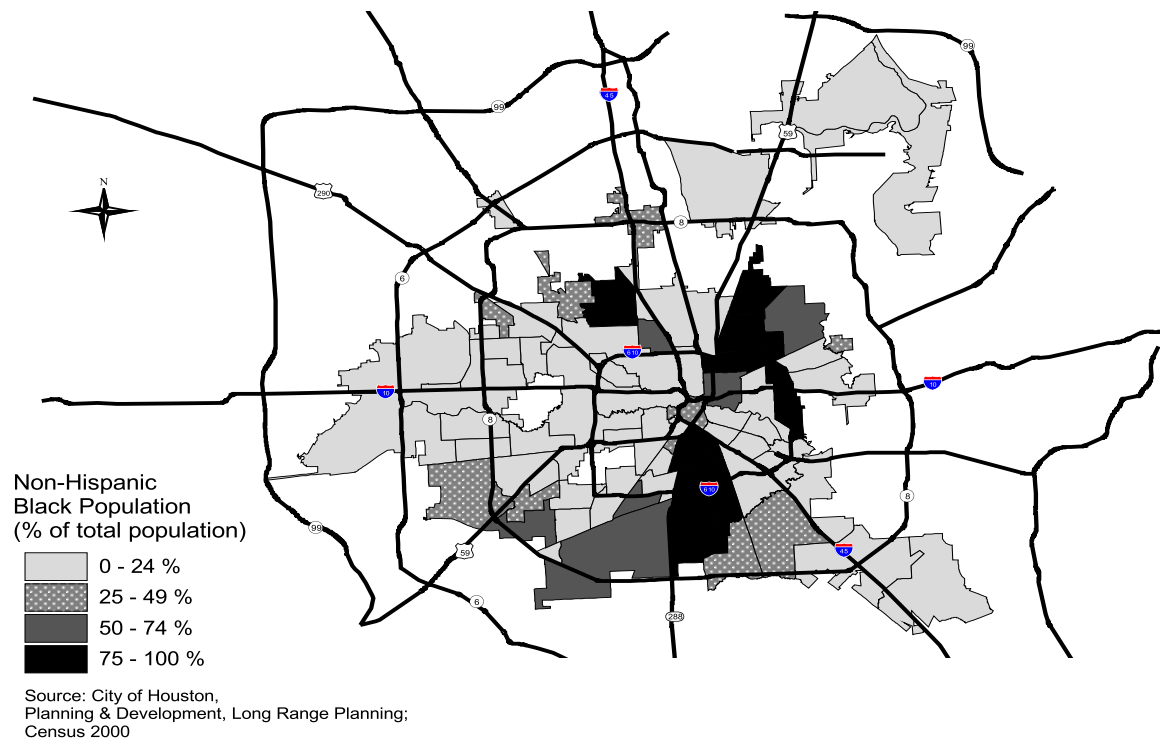


Figure 1-10: Hispanic population, 2000

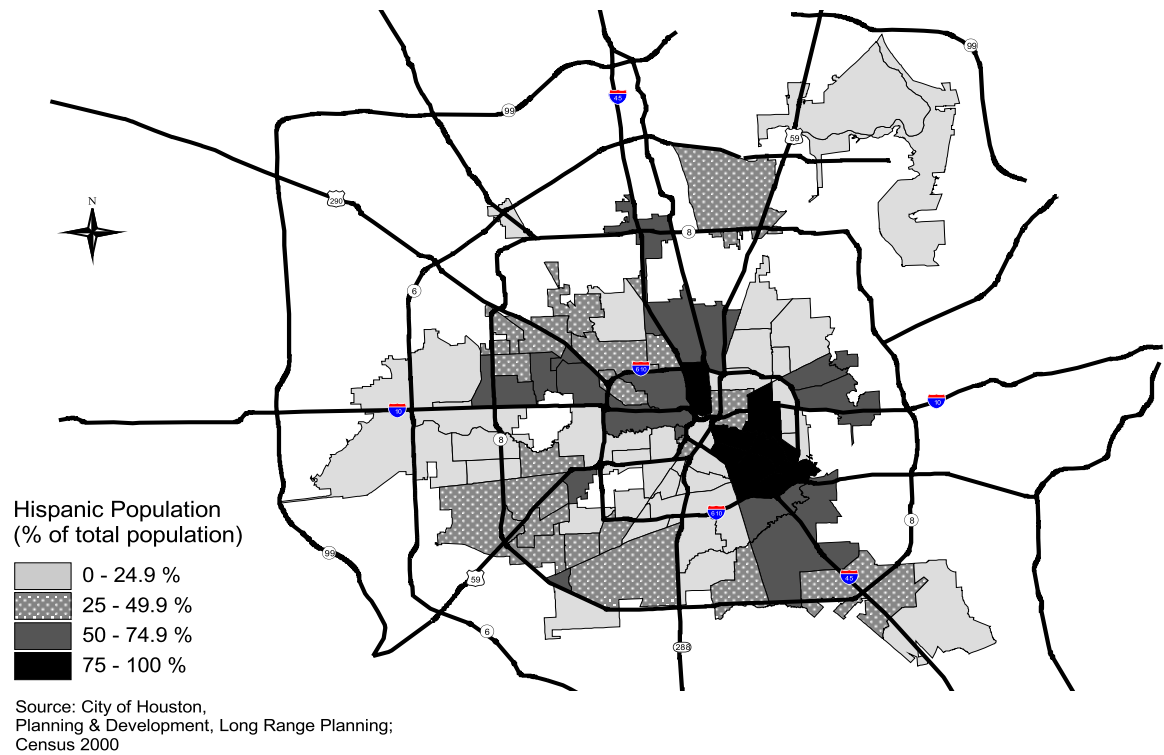
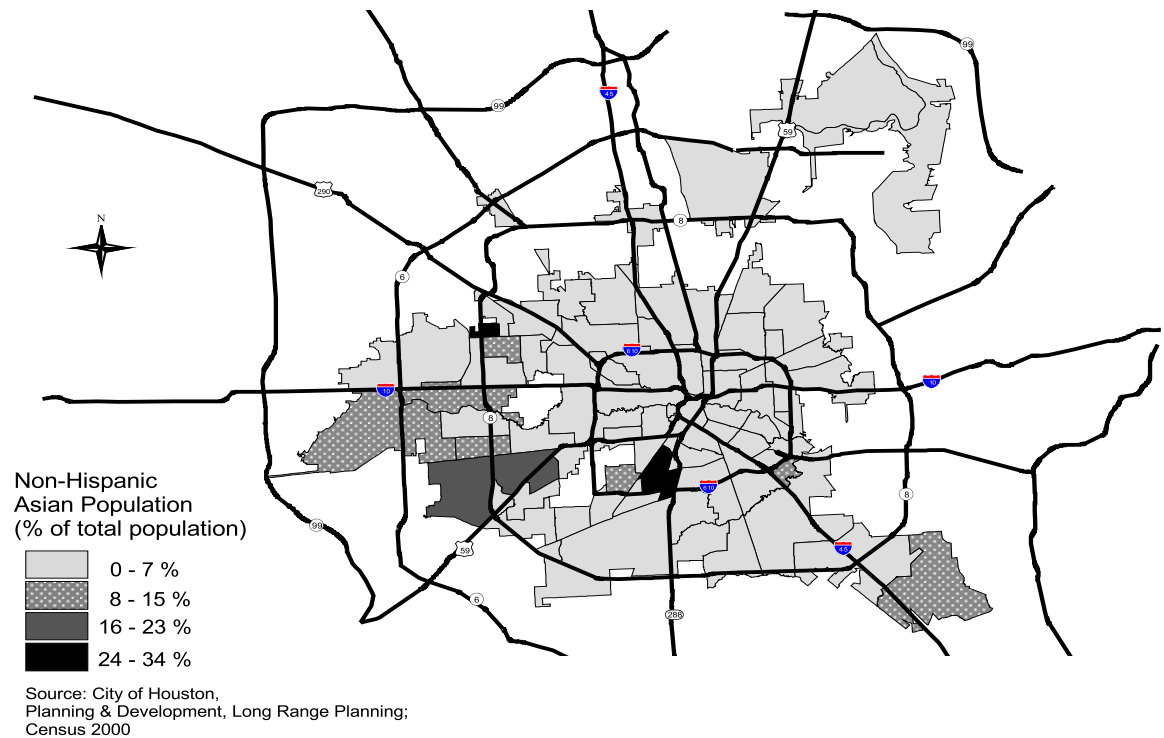


Figure 1-11: Non- Hispanic Asian and Pacific Islander population, 2000



• Household Characteristics •

In 2000 Houston's population was made up of 717,945 households. A household is defined as one occupied housing unit. There are two types of households: the *family* household consisting of two or more related occupants, and the *non-family* household consisting of unrelated occupants such as students sharing a house.

Between 1990 and 2000 family households grew by 1% while non-family households decreased by 1% between 1990 and 2000 (Figure 1-12).

Another lifestyle indicator is the number of persons per household (PPH). Houston's 2000 average of 2.67 PPH is lower than either the county, or state, averages, although it has been

increasing in the past decade. Houston's PPH increased 0.7% between 1990 and 2000, while the national PPH decreased by 0.4% over the same time period (Figure 1-13).

**Figure 1-12:
Household Composition
City of Houston, 1990 and 2000**

Household Type	1990	2000
Family households	387,600 (63%)	457,549 (64%)
Married-couple	269,320 (44%)	310,066 (43%)
Other, male householder	28,314 (5%)	37,354 (5%)
Other, female householder	89,966 (15%)	109,723 (15%)
Nonfamily households	229,277 (37%)	260,396 (36%)
Householder living alone	191,005 (31%)	212,718 (30%)
Total Households:	616,877	717,945

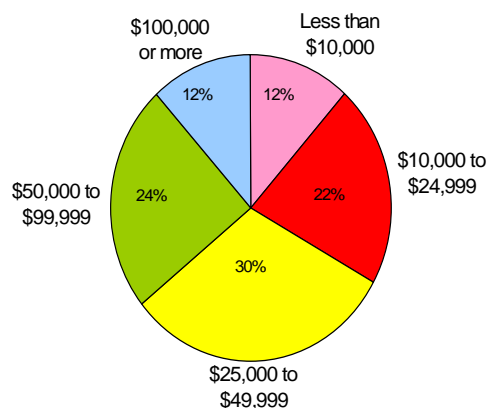
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000

**Figure 1-13: Household size,
1990 and 2000**

Persons per Household			
Place	1990	2000	% Change
City of Houston	2.60	2.67	2.7 %
Harris County	2.72	2.79	2.6 %
Texas	2.73	2.74	0.4 %
U.S.	2.63	2.59	-1.5 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000

**Figure 1-14: Median Household
Income City of Houston, 2000**



Median household income: \$36,616

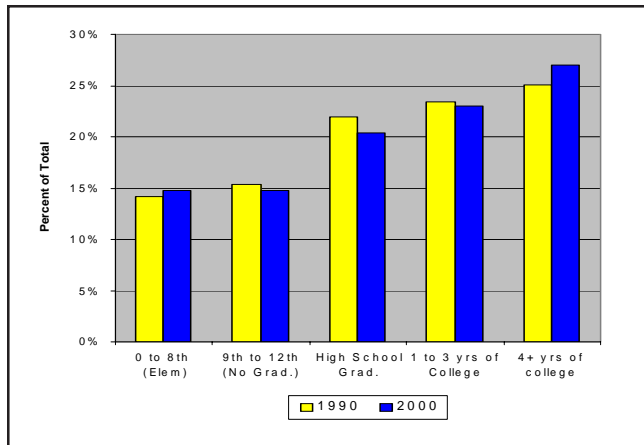
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

• Income •

In 2000, the median income of Houston households was \$36,616. Twenty-two percent of these households earned between \$10,000 and \$24,999 a year, 30% earned between \$25,000 and \$49,999 a year, and 36% earned more (Figure 1-14). Twelve percent earned less than \$10,000 a year. The median family income was slightly higher, at \$40,443, than the median household income. Twenty-one percent of families earned between \$10,000 and \$24,999, 30% earned between \$25,000 and \$49,999, and 40% earned more. Nine percent earned less than \$10,000 a year.

• Education •

Figure 1-15: Educational Attainment*
City of Houston, 1990 and 2000



*Persons 25 years and older

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000.

Educational attainment levels are demographic indicators that reflect an area's economic and cultural opportunities, and other factors demonstrating the quality of life. In Houston, as in the rest of the country, educational attainment levels have been steadily rising over the past two decades. The number of Houstonians with college or graduate degrees has risen from 25.1% in 1990, to 27% in 2000. On the other hand, the percentage of people who have graduated high school has dropped 2%, during the same period (22% to 20%). See Figure 1-15.

Chapter 2

EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND RECREATION

FACTS

- ◆ **School Districts**
- ◆ **Higher Education**
- ◆ **Libraries**
- ◆ **Parks**
- ◆ **Sports and Entertainment**
- ◆ **Museum District**
- ◆ **Theater District**
- ◆ **Media**

Education, Culture, and Recreation

AT A GLANCE

Houston is home to:

- ◆ **The largest school district in Texas and the seventh largest school district in the country**
- ◆ **Twenty-one institutions of higher learning**
- ◆ **Professional teams representing every major sport including a new NFL Franchise Team**
- ◆ **The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo which attracts more than 2.1 million each year**
- ◆ **A museum district with sixteen museums**
- ◆ **A Theater District second only to New York City in its concentration of seats in one geographic area**

School Districts

The Census Bureau estimates that there were 352,666 students enrolled in elementary or high school in the City of Houston for 2000-2001. Approximately 95% of these children are served by the area's public schools. There are portions of 19 school districts within Houston's City Limits. (Figure 2-1). The remaining 5% of the school age children are served by area private schools or are home-schooled.

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) is the largest district accounting for approximately 63% of the City's total public school enrollment. HISD encompasses 312 square miles and includes 289 campuses and educational programs. It is the largest school system in Texas and the 7th largest school system in the United States. Enrollment for 2000-2001 exceeded 211,000 students, of which 55% were Hispanic, 34.1%, 32% African American, 10% White, 2.8% Asian/

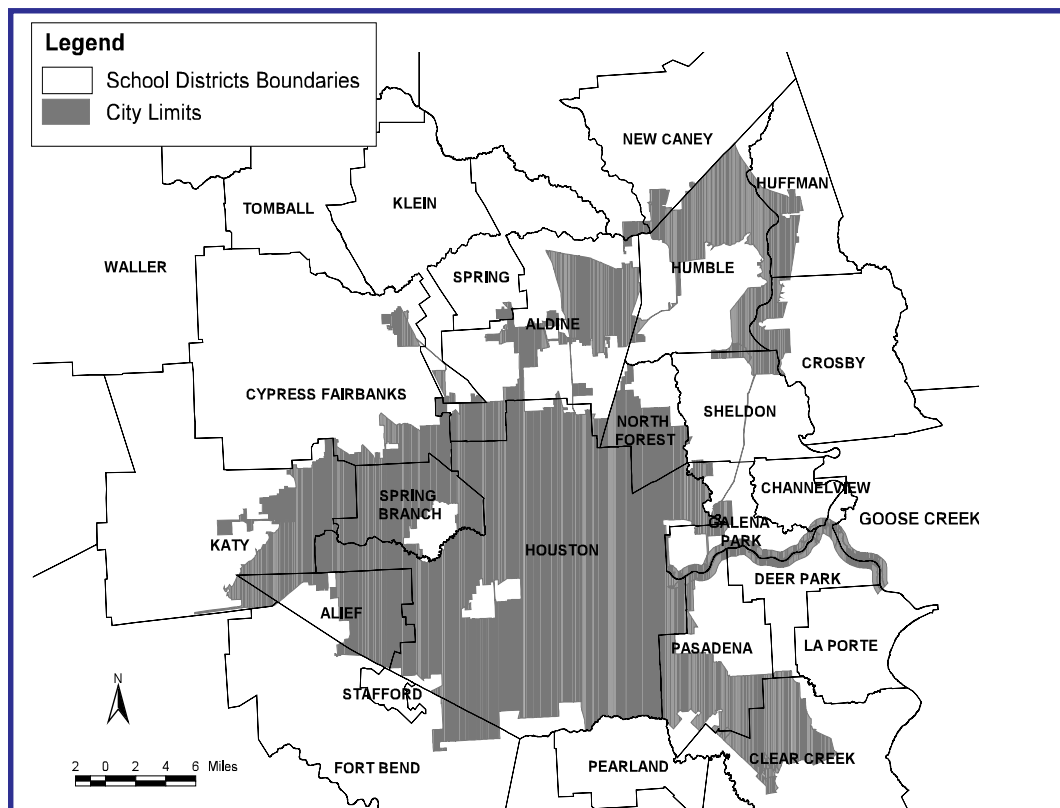


Hamilton Middle School, HISD

Pacific Islander and 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan.

Figure 2.2 highlights various educational indicators for school districts in the Houston area from the school year 2000-2001 school year. San Antonio being the highest rates at 93.4%. HISD has the second highest percentage 77% of economically disadvantaged students, the highest student/teacher ratio, and the lowest tax rate.

Figure 2-1: Houston Area School Districts



Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston 2002

Compared to other large urban districts in Texas, HISD ranks higher than Dallas and San Antonio in both the Percentage of Students Passing all Tests Taken and in Mean SAT score. HISD has a tax rate that is comparable to these urban districts; 1.519 per \$100 in value compared to the high of 1.722 in San Antonio.

Of these school districts, HISD's 2000-2001 average teacher salary of \$42,057 is lower than Dallas' \$43,401 and San Antonio's \$45,504. In terms of individual school ratings, as evaluated by the Texas Education Agency, HISD performs comparably to other large Texas districts (Figure 2-3).

HISD has a diverse magnet school program which allows a student to focus on one of many areas. These include fine arts, communications, business administration, health sciences, aviation sciences, and engineering professions.

Pursuant to Mayor Lee P. Brown's goal of making Houston the most child friendly city in the nation, he has fostered educational and cultural programs for youth in Houston. These include:

After-School Achievement Program - provides supervised, elementary and middle school students during "dangerous hours", from 3-6 p.m., when rates of juvenile crime and victimization are highest.

Summer Youth Enrichment Program - teaches communication skills and positive social interaction to students who need a structured environment during summer months.

Power Card Challenge- encourages children to get a library card. During the first year of the program the number of children with library cards doubled. Juvenile circulation increased from 2,370,328 in FY 1998 to 3,007,271 items in 2002.

Houston Youth Council - modeled after the Houston City Council, it allows young Houstonians to discuss issues affecting them and make recommendations to City government.

Lee Brown Kids - a monthly youth-oriented program in which Mayor Brown takes a group of children to sports, educational, cultural, or other fun events.

Figure 2-2: Average Teacher's Salary 2003

Experience	Salary
Beginning Teacher	\$32,131
1-5 Years	\$35,513
6-10 Years	\$38,215
11-20 Years	\$44,921
Over 20 Years	\$54,102
Average Actual Salaries	\$42,057

Source: Houston Independent School District, 2003



Figure 2-3 : School Districts serving City of Houston 2001-2002

School District	Total District Enrollment	%Economically Disadvantaged Students	Annual Dropout Rate (2000-2001)	Students Passing all Tests Taken (all Grades)	Percent Taking SAT	Mean SAT Score	Number of Students per Teacher	Locally Adopted Tax Rate	Total Instructional Expenditure per Pupil
Aldine	53,201	73.7	0.6	87.1	55.2	869	14.9	1.588	\$4,006
Alief	43,630	53.9	1.1	78.2	73.0	931	16.2	1.675	\$3,591
Channelview	6,975	56.2	1.1	82.3	45.0	898	17.0	1.610	\$3,439
Crosby	4,022	36.3	1.4	87.5	67.4	1,015	15.3	1.670	\$3,496
Deer Park	11,236	24.3	0.4	92.8	45.9	1,034	15.7	1.690	\$3,658
Galena Park	19,336	65.8	0.5	89.1	39.8	911	14.6	1.684	\$3,495
Goose Creek	18,274	52.2	1.2	86.4	42.2	957	15.8	1.705	\$3,304
Houston	210,670	79.0	1.5	82.1	62.6	940	17.4	1.580	\$3,846
Huffman	2,624	21.5	0.2	87.3	56.5	977	15.7	1.690	\$3,024
Humble	25,239	17.3	0.3	89.9	80.7	1,055	14.9	1.740	\$3,465
Katy	37,211	12.9	0.2	93.7	83.0	1,083	14.6	1.920	\$3,810
Klein	33,528	21.4	0.3	92.3	81.5	1,051	15.5	1.720	\$3,475
La Porte	7,745	30.0	0.6	89.1	45.6	1,000	16.3	1.630	\$3,744
North Forest	11,699	80.1	2.5	66.9	44.8	751	16.8	1.744	\$3,006
Pasadena	43,476	57.3	0.9	86.6	38.3	968	16.1	1.665	\$3,395
Sheldon	4,062	56.4	1.3	77.6	51.2	936	14.1	1.633	\$4,208
Spring	24,429	40.4	0.7	86.7	62.3	1,001	15.1	1.700	\$3,428
Spring Branch	32,540	53.1	0.7	88.0	72.0	1,078	15.1	1.810	\$3,738
Tomball	7,674	15.1	0.4	90.1	75.7	1,021	15.3	1.680	\$3,384
Other Major Urban Schools Systems in Texas:									
Houston	210,670	79.0	1.5	82.1	62.6	940	17.4	1.580	\$3,846
Dallas	163,562	76.1	1.1	72.5	49.8	855	15.5	1.548	\$3,578
Austin	76,507	50.1	1.5	78.8	60.9	1,043	14.4	1.548	\$3,540
El Paso	62,739	67.2	1.4	76.6	57.8	954	15.1	1.571	\$3,483
Northside	65,773	41.7	1.3	85.9	71.9	995	15.1	1.738	\$3,656
San Antonio	57,421	92.3	1.2	73.3	63.8	803	15.7	1.722	\$3,773
Average for Major Urban Districts:	106,112	67.7	1.3	78.2	61.1	932	15.5	1.618	\$3,646

Source: Texas Education Agency, *Snapshot 2002*

Figure 2-3: Texas Education Agency Ratings of Schools in 6 Urban Districts

2002 TEA Rating	Houston	Dallas	Austin	El Paso	San Antonio	Northside
Number of Schools Receiving Exemplary Rating	66	27	17	5	10	8
% of Total Schools	23.00%	12.44%	16.04%	6.10%	10.64%	11.94%
Number of Schools Receiving Recognized Rating	114	40	31	30	33	34
% of Total Schools	39.72%	18.43%	29.25%	36.59%	35.11%	50.75%
Number of Schools Receiving Acceptable Rating	84	129	51	44	38	22
% of Total Schools	29.27%	59.45%	48.11%	53.66%	40.43%	32.84%
Number of Schools Receiving Low Performing Rating	7	15	4	1	8	0
% of Total Schools	2.44%	6.91%	3.77%	1.22%	8.51%	0.00%
Total Schools*	287	217	106	82	94	67

*Does not include schools with data issues

Source: Texas Education Agency, Snapshot 2002

Ratings are based on standards including: TAAS scores, Dropout Rate, and Attendance Rate. Exemplary is the highest rating, Low Performing is the lowest rating.

• Higher Education

Houston provides a broad range of educational choices. There are thirty community colleges and university campuses (as well as other specialty schools) that offer higher educational opportunities in metropolitan Houston.

Houston Area Public Institutions of Higher Learning:

Houston Community College is the fourth largest community college in the United States and it enrolls over 35,000 students each year.

Lee College offers two-year Associate degrees and had a 2001-2002 enrollment of over 6,600 students.

North Harris Montgomery Community College enrolls 23,521 students and serves over 12,000 non-credit students annually. It is the sixth largest community college district in Texas.

San Jacinto Community College has an average semester enrollment of 19,258. It has 100 programs of study, of which 60 are technically oriented.

The University of Houston was founded in 1927 and became a state-supported school in 1963. The university's 550-acre campus is home to 50,611 students and more than 40 research centers and institutes.

Texas Southern University is a predominantly African American institution with a 2001-2002 enrollment of 5,0189 students. It offers a B.A. in 78 areas and more than 30 master's degrees. TSU's programs include a College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and a Law School.

Houston Baptist University was founded in 1960 and has 2,300 students including undergraduate and graduate. It offers 42 undergraduate programs and 15 graduate programs.

Rice University is a private university of 2,780 undergraduate students and 1,600 graduate and professional students. Rice has 103 bachelor's programs, 119 masters programs 53 doctoral programs, and 3 professional degrees. A strong academic record, a lower sticker price and a generous financial aid program earned Rice top honors in the most recent survey of the best values among the nation's 1,600 private universities. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* ranked Rice first ahead of its peer institutions such as Stanford. This affordability is aided largely by the fact that Rice is one of the best-endowed institutions in the country with a FY 2001-2002 endowment market value of \$3.2 billion.

South Texas College of Law is a 75-year-old private law school located in downtown Houston. South Texas is accredited by the American Bar Association, and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. Full-time and part-time programs offer identical education to over 1,500 students seeking a Doctors of Jurisprudence.

The University of St. Thomas is a Catholic institution serving 4,673 students with a business school, a school of theology as well as arts and sciences programs.

As part of the **Texas Medical Center** there are many specialized educational institutions focusing on medicine. These schools are branches of main campuses located in other places. The **Albert B. Alkek Institute of Biosciences and Technology** is part of **Texas A&M. Baylor College of Medicine**, has 1,658 students, and is among the top 20 of 125 US medical schools in research funding. **Prairie View A&M** sponsors a **School of Nursing**, and **Texas Women's University** sponsors an **Institute of Health Sciences** with 1,000 students. **The University of Texas Health Sciences Center** has 4,321 students as well as 1,000 residents and fellows. In addition to a **Medical School**, **The University of Texas** has a **Dental Branch**, a **Graduate School in Biomedical Sciences**, and a **School of Public Health** at the Texas Medical Center.

Figure 2-4: Houston Area Colleges and Universities

Colleges and Universities	Estimated Enrollment 2001-2002	Resident Tuition 2001-2002	Phone Number	Internet Address
Baylor College of Medicine	1,658	\$6,550	(713) 798-4891	bcm.tmc.edu
Houston Baptist University	2,522	\$10,060	(281)649-3466	hbu.edu
Houston Graduate School of Theology	1,953	\$5,240	(713)942-9505	hgst.edu
International Christian Institute	376	\$1,800	(281) 561-0809	pvam.edu
Prairie View Nursing College	10,764	\$6,288	(713) 797-7000	pvam.edu
Rice University	4,380	\$16,850	(713)348-0000	rice.edu
South Texas College of Law	1,500	\$8,425	(713) 659-8040	stcl.edu
St. Mary's Seminary	425	\$1,200	(713) 686-4345	no site available
University of St. Thomas	4,673	\$12,300	(713) 525-6977	stthorn.edu
Texas Bible College	180	\$5,520	(713) 926-8808	texasbiblecollege.org
Texas Southern University	5,055	\$2,398	(713) 313-7011	tsu.edu
Texas Women's University	350	\$2,340	(713) 794-2000	tw.edu
University of Houston - Central	43,028	\$4,952	(713) 743-1000	uh.edu
University of Houston - Clear Lake	8,120	\$8,372	(281) 283-7600	cluh.edu
University of Houston - Downtown	8,500	\$9,688	(713) 221-8000	dt.uh.edu
University of Texas Health Science Center	4,321	\$8,647	(713)500-4472	uth.tmc.edu
Community Colleges				
Houston Community College System	35,188	\$860	(713) 718-2000	hccs.cc.tx.us
Lee College	6,647	\$675	(281) 427-5611	lee.edu
North Harris Montgomery Community College	22,335	\$840	(281) 260-3500	nhmccd.cc.tx.us
San Jacinto Community College	19,258	\$850	(281) 476-1501	sjcd.cc.tx.us

Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

• Libraries •

The Houston Public Library is a department of the City of Houston serving a population of two million. The Library system consists of a Central Library complex in downtown Houston, a genealogical research library, 35 neighborhood branches, and two special service units that offer library services for children and parents at the Children's Museum, for patients at M.D. Anderson Hospital.

The Houston Public Library serves the seventh largest service population in the country. It circulates some 6.1 million items annually including books, videos, magazines, and audiocassettes. It holds some 4.7 million items and has more than 500 public computer terminals which offer access to the library's catalog, the Internet, and extensive electronic databases. The Library's resources are accessible to remote users through a Web page (www.houstonlibrary.org) and an online reference service. There is no fee for a library card and services for City of Houston and State of Texas residents.

The Harris County Library system serves all of Harris County with 25 branches and over 2 million items. Two libraries in Houston, based on the size of their holdings, expenditures and staff, are identified as University Research Libraries. These are the University of Houston at University Park and Rice University Libraries.

Figure 2-5: Library Per Capita Rankings, 2002

Library Districts by Size	Circulation Per Capita	Reference Per Capita	Operating Budget Per Capita
Los Angeles	3.2	3.0	\$16.22
New York	4.1	1.9	\$34.52
Chicago	2.4	2.3	\$30.08
Brooklyn	4.6	2.8	\$32.04
Queens	7.5	1.5	\$33.90
Houston	3.1	1.7	\$19.65
Miami-Dade	2.5	1.9	\$19.91
Philadelphia	4.4	2.2	35.72

Source: Public Library Data Service Statistical Report, 2002



Mayor Lee P. Brown

• Parks •

Houston has a wide variety of parks to meet the recreation and leisure needs of its citizens. The City of Houston provides 308 parks, 7 golf courses, 43 pools, 260 playgrounds, and 57 community centers. Currently the Parks Department is implementing a Parks to Standard renovation program in many of the city's 308 fully developed parks. Phase I was an 81 park \$52 million effort which has been followed by Phase II, a 42 park \$30 million dollar program.

Of special note is Houston's Arboretum and Nature Center, a 155-acre urban wildlife sanctuary and the Miller Outdoor Theater, a free, outdoor theater that features first class entertainment in the spring through the fall.

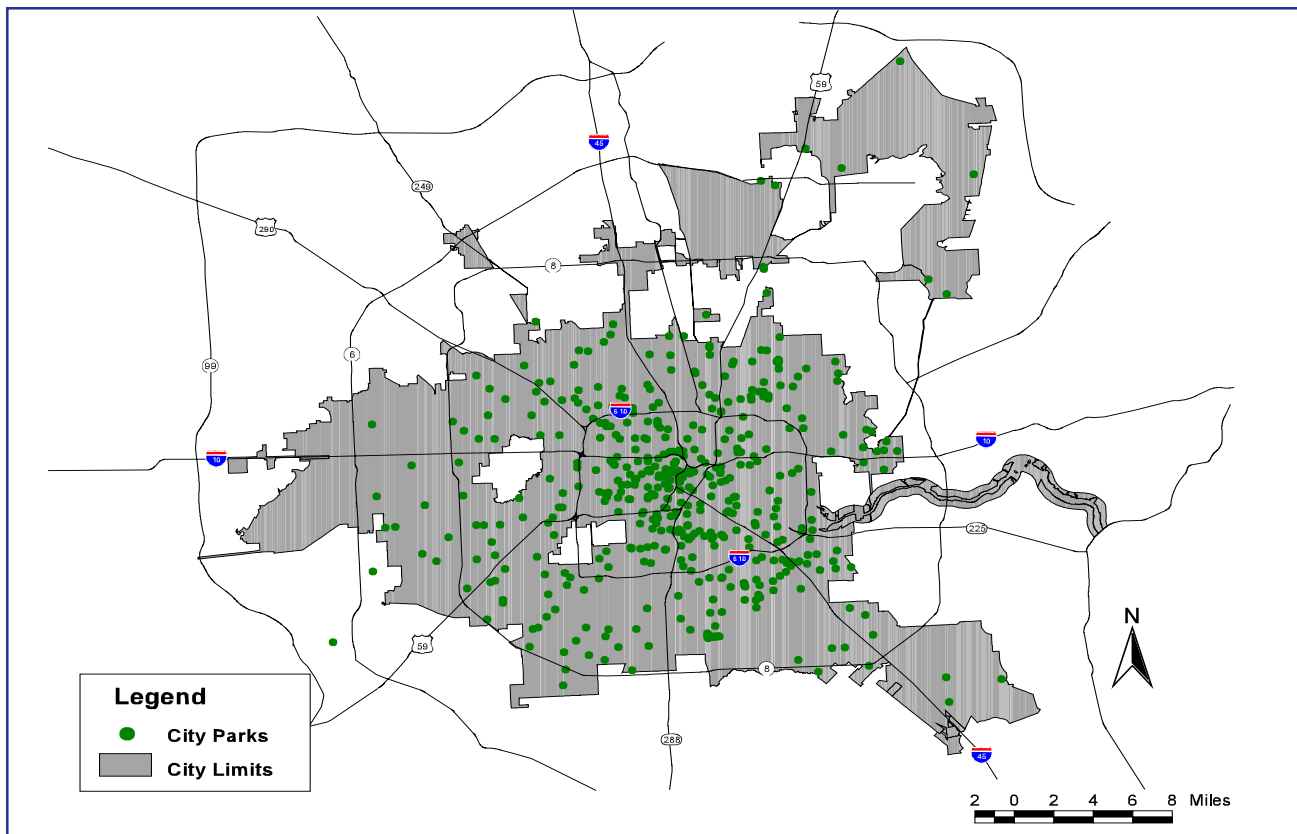
Harris County operates the largest county park system in the state with a total acreage of over

21,654 acres and 36 miles of trails. The Park system is divided into 4 precincts, each of which is administered by a County Commissioner.



Houston Zoo

Figure 2-6: Houston City Parks



Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

• Sports & Entertainment •

- ◆ Houston has many world class professional sports teams
- ◆ Houston Aeros - International Hockey League Champions 1999
- ◆ Houston Astros - Major League Baseball, playing at the new downtown, Minute Maid Park.
- ◆ Houston Comets - three times Women's National Basketball Association Champions. The Comets play in the new Toyota Center.
- ◆ Houston Hotshots - Continental Indoor Soccer League
- ◆ Houston Rockets - two time National Basketball Association Champions. The Rockets play in the new Toyota Center.
- ◆ Houston Texans - New NFL Franchise Football Team Opening season began September 2002 with a new stadium. The Texans work, train and play at Reliant Stadium, Houston's newest state-of-the-art sports complex. Reliant Stadium is the first NFL stadium with a retractable roof.

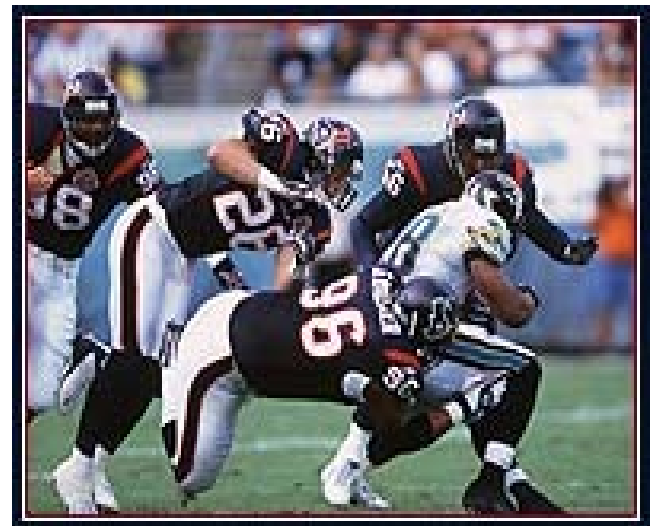


Houston Rockets

Steve Francis #3



Houston Livestock and Show and Rodeo "Bull Riding"



Houston Texans Opening Year 2002

• Museum District •

In the heart of Houston near major universities, the Texas Medical Center, and Hermann Park, is the Museum District, home to now 16 institutions dedicated to education and the arts. Five new venues have joined the prestigious Houston Museum District: **The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, the Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston Center for Photography and Rothko Chapel.** These new additions have added more diversity to an already eclectic mix of museums.

The **Houston Museum of Natural Science** highlights the earth's wonders through the Burke Baker Planetarium, the Wortham IMAX Theater as well as the Cockrell Butterfly center with over 1,500 live butterflies.

The **Rice University Art Gallery** is located on the Rice University campus and open to the public. This gallery invites outstanding contemporary artists to create new installations on site.

The **C.G. Jung Educational Center** was founded in 1958 and is the oldest institute of its kind. Its purpose is to apply Jungian analytical psychology for the development of the individual towards wholeness. It hosts classes as well as workshops, lectures, conferences and art exhibitions.

The **Menil Collection** opened in 1987 and is free to the public. It houses approximately 15,000 paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs, and rare books.

The **Children's Museum of Houston** serves more than 450,000 visitors annually, and is ranked among the top children's museums in the country by "Child Magazine". The museum provides hands-on learning in science, technology, history, culture, health and human services, and the arts.

The **Contemporary Arts Museum**, which was renovated in 1997, is dedicated to presenting art of the last 40 years to the people of Houston.

The **Museum of Fine Arts**, Houston is the oldest comprehensive museum in the southwest United States. Its exhibits include art from all over the world, past and present. The museum is also home to the Glassell School of Art and the Cullen Sculpture Garden.

The **Lawndale Art Center** focuses on Houston area artists and provides exhibition space for contemporary works in all media. It hosts the exhibits of approximately 500 artists each year.



Children's Museum of Houston



Holocaust Museum Houston



Menil Collection



Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum

• Theater District •

Houston's Theatre District is the home of many performance arts organizations. This downtown attraction has over 12,000 seats and occupies 17 blocks. Only New York City has more seats concentrated in one geographic area.

The **Alley Theatre**, a professional resident theater company, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1997. Among its accomplishments is a 1996 Special Tony for Outstanding and Sustained Achievement by Regional Professional Theater from the American Theater Critics Association.

The **Aerial Theater** and the **Angelika Film Center**, located in Bayou Place, are popular venues for performances and films respectively.

The **Houston Ballet** is the nation's fifth largest ballet company and gives more than 80 performances each year.

The **Houston Grand Opera**, housed in Wortham Theatre, is the only Opera Company to have won an Emmy, a Grammy, and a Tony. The fifth largest opera company in the U.S., it was founded in 1955, has an annual budget of \$17.3 million and performs to more than 150,000 people annually.

The **Houston Symphony** celebrated its 85th anniversary during the 1998-99 season. With a budget of \$18.4 million and 97 professional musicians, it performs 200 concerts each year that are attended by an estimated 300,000 people.

The **Society for the Performing Arts** is the largest non-profit presenting organization in the southwest. It has sponsored more than 600 performances in dance, music and theater events.

Houston's Broadway Series brings productions from Broadway and London to Houston each year.

In addition to these organizations, there are many local performing arts groups that add to Houston's cultural life. These include:

- A.D. Players – ministry through theater for 26 years
- Ensemble Theatre – oldest and largest minority theater in the Southwest.
- Houston Gilbert and Sullivan Society – recognized as one of the outstanding amateur Gilbert and Sullivan societies in the U.S.

Houston's Broadway Series
"The Wizard of Oz"



The Society for the Performing Arts



Alley Theatre



Houston Ballet



• Media •

Houston is a major national media market and as such has a wide variety of media outlets. With 61 stations, radio covers a wide variety of special interests, from Spanish language to Vietnamese in addition to more conventional music and talk/news formats. There are 20 local television stations, which carry all the major networks as well as 4 shopping stations, 3 Spanish Language stations, 2 religious stations, and 2 independent stations.

Chapter 3

HOUSING

FACTS

- ◆ **Type and Age**
- ◆ **Growth Trends**
- ◆ **Housing Costs**
- ◆ **Housing Assistance**

Housing

AT A GLANCE

♦	Estimated Total Housing Units	782,009
	Occupied	717,945
	Owner occupied	328,741
	Renter Occupied	389,204
	Vacant	64,064
♦	Permits Issued 2002	
	Single Family Units	4,198
	Multi-family Units	6,966
	Total:	11,164
♦	Single Family Homes sold in 2002	60,247
♦	Median Price 2002	\$118,750

As one of the most basic human needs, an adequate supply of housing plays a large role in the prosperity of a city. Compared to other major U.S. cities, Houston's housing stock is generally regarded as abundant, affordable and fairly new.

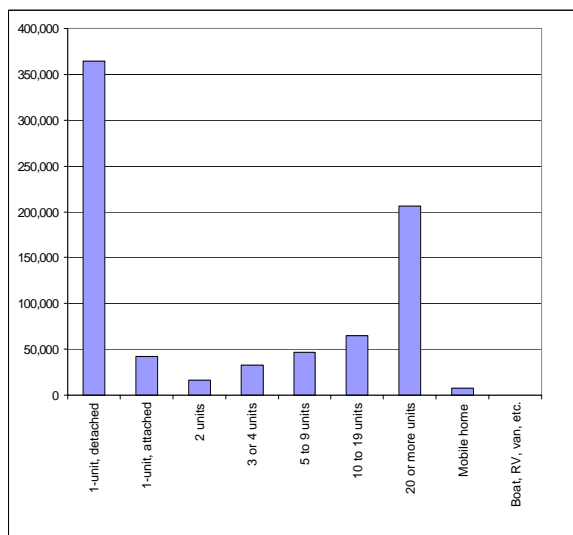
• Type and Age •

The majority of Houston's 782,009 unit housing stock in 2000 is less than 30 years old. Single family detached units make up the majority of Houston's housing, comprising 46% of the total housing stock down from 48% in 1998. Complexes with 5 or more units comprise 42% of the housing stock. (Figure 3-1) The city homeownership rate of 46% is lower than the Harris County rate of 55% and the national rate of 64%. Houston's housing stock is fairly new: 57% was built after 1970, 27% was constructed after 1980, and 11% built after 1990 (Figure 3-2).



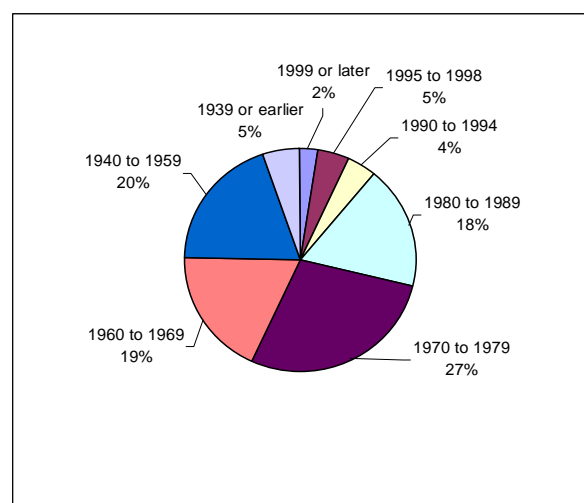
Diverse Housing Types in Houston

Figure 3-1: Units in Structure



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Figure 3-2: Year Houses Built



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

• Growth Trends •

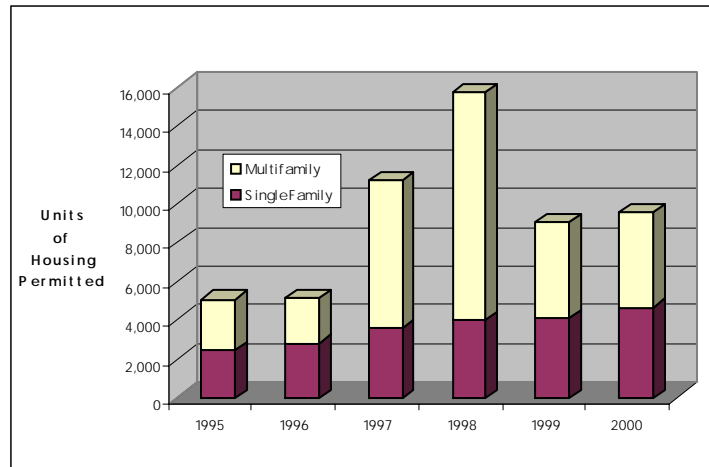
As early as the 1890s, developers were building residential communities beyond Houston's city limits. This trend of growth away from the central-city accelerated between the late 1940s and early 1980s. Growth has now begun in the central city and appearing in areas once considered "blighted" such as the area called Midtown, just south of the Central Business District.

Overall housing growth in the Houston area skyrocketed during the economic boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s. When boom changed to bust, foreclosures and population loss led to an oversupply of housing. However, in 1988 the housing market began to strengthen. By 1996 the housing supply, measured by the number of permits issued, was increasing at one of the fastest rates in the country (*Realty Times* March 23, 1999). That growth has stabilized through 2000 although the luxury end of the market is driving multi-unit growth both within and outside of the loop (Figure 3-3).

While the diversity of housing in Houston has been widened, the strength of the housing market has expanded dramatically. In terms of housing sales measured in terms of unit sales, the market increased approximately 25% a year between



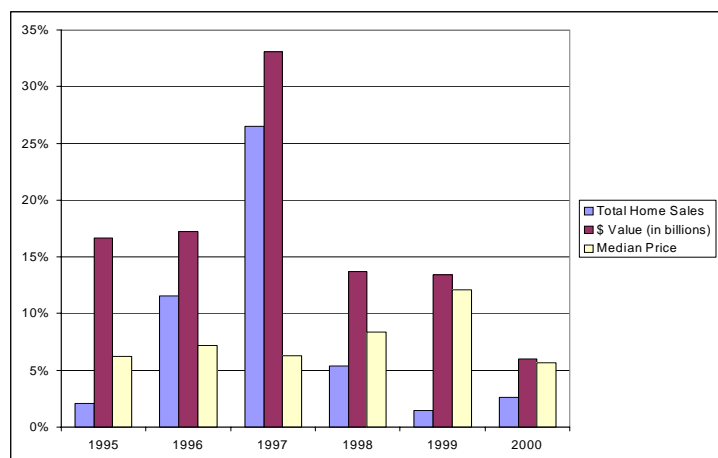
Figure 3-3: Yearly Residential Permit Totals



Source: *Growth Indicators*, Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

1996 and 1998. Home sales as well as total dollar volume decreased from 1999 through 2001. This may be attributable to a slowing economy during that period (Table 3-4 & 3-5).

Figure 3-4: Percent Change in Home Sales



Source: Multiple Listing Service, Houston Area Realtors, November 2002

• Housing Costs •

The American Chamber of Commerce Research Association (ACCRA) produces a quarterly index based on a survey that measures the cost of housing (rental and home ownership) in all participating areas of the U.S. The average housing cost for American cities is the ACCRA cost index of 100. Housing that is more costly than the average has an index of 100+ and less expensive housing is indexed below 100. Of the ten largest cities in the 2000 Census, Houston and San Antonio tie for being the most affordable cities by Housing Value according to ACCRA. (Figure 3-6).

A second measurement, The Multiple Listing Service (MLS) 2001 median sales price of \$124,356 includes the sales price of all houses sold through the MLS in the Houston area (Figure 3-5). Yet another method of estimating home prices is the value of a home as estimated by the homeowner. This information is

collected by the Census Bureau and provides the most comprehensive data on home values because it takes into account all homes rather than just those on the market. The 2000 data shows that the majority (64%) of Houston's homes are valued at less than \$100,000 (US Census, 2000 Profile of Selected Housing Characteristics). However, because Census data is self reported, it may not reflect market value. Because housing standards vary between regions, these types of averages and medians are of limited use in making comparisons among several locations.

Figure 3-5: Increase in Home Sales, 1996-2002

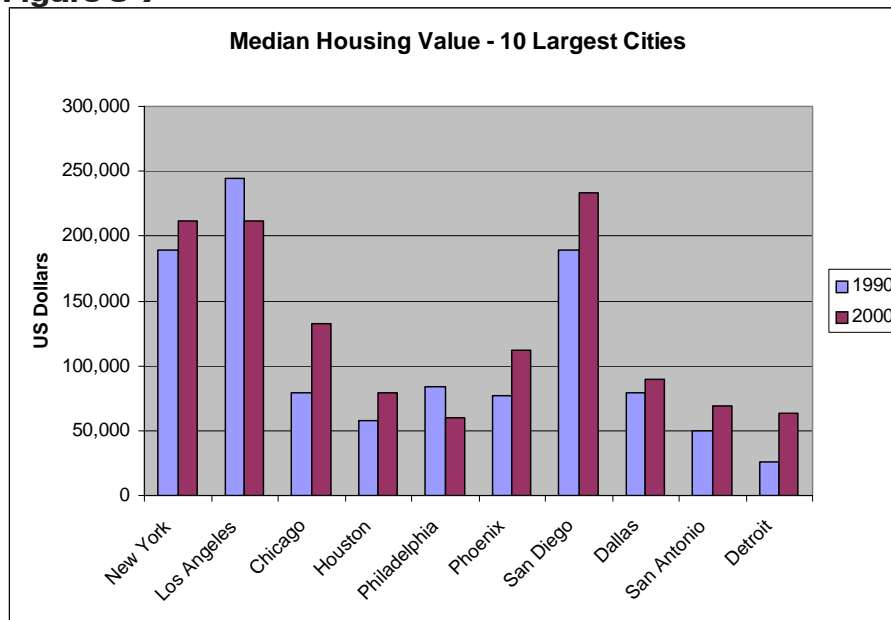
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total Home Sales % Change	36,784 2%	41,033 12%	51,904 26%	54,704 5%	55,514 1%	56,980 3%	60,247 6%
Total Dollar Volume in Billions % Change	\$4.13 17%	\$4.84 17%	\$6.44 33%	\$7.32 14%	\$8.3 13%	\$8.8 6%	\$10 14%
Median Price - Single Family Home % Change	\$85,000 6%	\$91,125 7%	\$96,880 6%	\$105,000 8%	\$117,682 12%	\$131,250 12%	\$137,500 5%

Source: Houston Area Realtors, MLS, 2003

Figure 3-6: Housing Cost Index

MSA/PMSA	URBAN AREA AND STATE	COMPOSITE	HOUSING
New York NY PMSA	New York (Manhattan) NY	219.0	408.3
Chicago IL PMSA	Chicago IL	139.0	197.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach CA PMSA	Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	138.2	210.0
New York NY PMSA	New York (Queens) NY	131.1	159.9
San Diego CA MSA	San Diego CA	140.0	211.8
Philadelphia PA-NJ PMSA	Philadelphia PA	121.2	130.6
Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland MI MSA	Grand Rapids MI	101.1	90.6
Dallas TX PMSA	Plano TX	96.4	90.8
Houston TX PMSA	Houston TX	90.4	79.2
San Antonio TX MSA	San Antonio TX	91.2	86.9

Source: ACCRA, 2003 Q1 Index

Figure 3-7

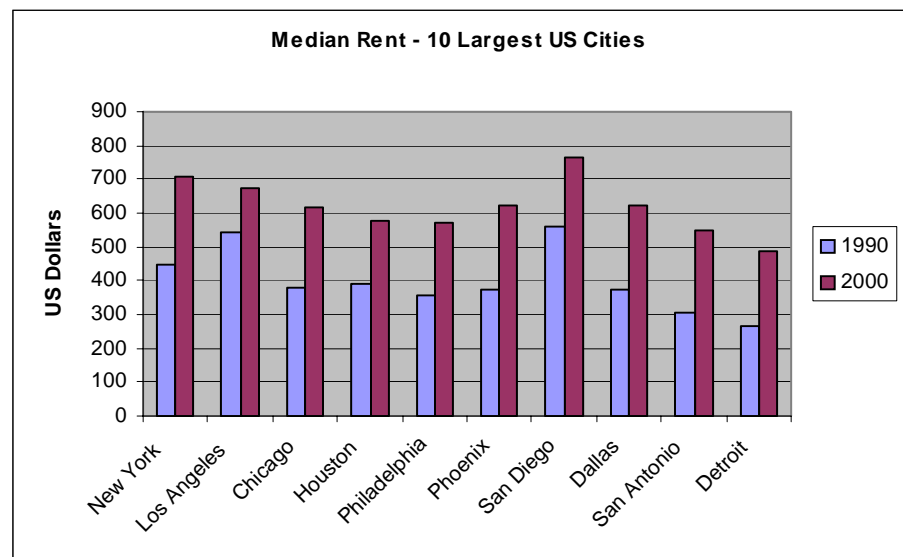
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

Housing values in the City of Houston are relatively inexpensive when compared with the nine other largest U.S. cities. The 2000 figures closely match the 1990 housing values. Houston's housing market still appears to be a bargain for a city of its size.

Figure 3-8

The rental market, however, reveals a different trend when median rent is examined across the same ten cities. The difference in Median rent for all of these cities is fairly similar during 1990 and 2000.

San Diego continues to dominate the rental market in 2000 as well, following New York and Los Angeles.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

Figure 3-9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

Gross Rent as reported to the United States Census indicates a clear shift upward towards the higher end of the market. Additional units added to the luxury rental market may account for the shift reflected in other cities as well. An after-effect of the good economic climate of the 90's may have boosted the luxury rental market.

● Housing Assistance ●

In spite of the relative affordability of housing, only 46% of the population are homeowners (2000 Census, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics). Therefore, rental rates become especially important in terms of affordability.

While rents may seem low in comparison to other major metropolitan areas, 27% of the population pays more than 35% or more of its adjusted income towards rent. According to HUD, housing is no longer affordable once it consumes more than 30% of a family's monthly income.

In order to help the people of Houston attain their housing needs, the City's Department of Housing and Community Development administers funds from the City Consolidated Annual Plan which combines the planning and application process of four (4) formula grant programs. These programs include Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Housing Opportunities For Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) and Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG). In 2002 Houston received \$54,916,000 for housing related programs. CDBG and HOME funds help support three major housing initiatives:

1. Homebuyer's Assistance Program - offers homebuyers assistance towards down payments and closing costs of up to \$3,500 for existing homes and up to \$9,500 for new homes.
2. Multi-Family Housing Rental Program - offers gap financing for the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of multi-family housing.
3. Emergency Home Repair Program - offers grants of up to \$5,000 for emergency repairs to single family homes owned by elderly or disabled persons.

In addition to the City programs, there are other funding sources that work with community-based organizations and area non-profits to increase the supply of affordable housing (Figure3-10).

Figure 3-10: Housing Programs

- ◆ Fannie Mae: American Communities Fund,
- ◆ Housing Impact Fund
- ◆ Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas:
- ◆ Affordable Housing Program
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Local Initiative Support Corporation
- ◆ Neighborhood Partnerships for Texas Program
- ◆ Texas Housing Trust Fund
- ◆ Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program
- ◆ Texas Inter-Faith Housing Corporation
- ◆ Housing Committee for Private Sector Initiatives
- ◆ Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program

The Housing Authority of the City of Houston also plays a role in providing assistance to those who need help in obtaining affordable housing. With an operating budget of over \$122 million in 2002, it operated 3,523 public housing units and administered 14,000 rental vouchers and certificates through the federal Section 8 program. The Housing Authority also sells scattered site units to eligible residents and is renovating its Allen Parkway site with the help of Federal HOPE VI grant money.

Homelessness is an important issue in terms of housing. In 1990, Harris County and the City of Houston funded the creation of the Coalition for the Homeless to address the issues identified in the study of the homeless, including the need to develop a comprehensive service delivery system to assist the homeless. Since its inception, the Collaborative has secured \$47.5 million for 86 projects through the Supportive Housing, Shelter Plus Care, and Innovative Homeless grant programs. Millions of dollars in private and public funding have been leveraged to supplement HUD grants to address the needs of the homeless in Houston/Harris County.

Chapter 4

HEALTH

FACTS

- ◆ **Births**
- ◆ **Deaths**
- ◆ **Medical Facilities**
- ◆ **Educational Institutions**

Health

AT A GLANCE

- ◆ **Texas Medical Center is home to the largest medical center in world.**
- ◆ **Hispanic birth rates highest among all ethnic groups in the City of Houston.**
- ◆ **Infant mortality has continued to fall in all categories for the past decade 1990-2000.**
- ◆ **Overall death rate for Harris County is below the state rate.**

Harris County	6.1 per thousand
Texas	7.2 per thousand
City of Houston	4.1 per thousand

HEALTH

At some point in their life, nearly every resident of Houston will make use of at least some of Houston's many medical facilities. Due undoubtedly in some part to the plentiful availability of healthcare, Houstonians are, by many measures, healthier than Texans in general.

• Births •

The number of births to Houston mothers has increased slightly over the past decade, from 39,946 in 1990 to 44,004 in 2001. This increase is quite evident in the number of Hispanic babies, which grew from 14,900 in 1990 to 24,254 in 2001. Looking at past trends, in 1990 37.3% of all babies born to Houston mothers were Hispanic; in 1994 that had increased to 46.1% and by 1998 Hispanic babies were 53.2% of the total. The race-specific birth rate for 2001 indicates that, Hispanic women bore 13 more babies per 1,000 women than African-American women, and 20 more than an equal number of White women (Figure 4-1). Fertility rates for Blacks and Whites have been decreasing in the past ten years with a leveling off since 1995. The Hispanic fertility rate increased, then slightly declined and has also leveled off, but at a much higher rate.

• Infant Mortality •

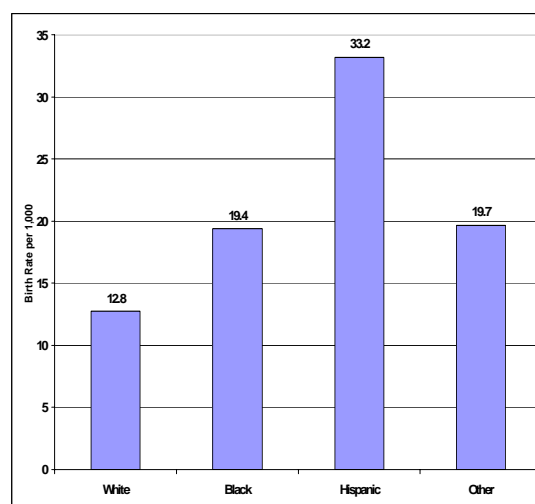
Houston's 2001 infant mortality rate is 5.5 per thousand, which is lower than the Texas rate of 6.0. This is down from 6.5 per thousand in 1998 for Houston and 6.6 per thousand in 1998 for Texas. Three indicators of maternal/infant health are the fetal, neonatal and infant death rates. Fetal deaths occur before birth, neonatal refers to babies from birth to 28 days old, and infant deaths are from birth to age 1 year.

Figure 4-2: Fetal, Neonatal, and Infant Deaths for Houston 1990, 1998-2001

Year	Live Births	Fetal Deaths	Fetal Deaths Per 1000	Neonatal Deaths	Neonatal Deaths Per 1000	Infant Deaths	Infant Deaths Per 1000
1990	36,247	198	5.2	143	3.2	224	6.2
1998	41,587	246	5.9	165	3.9	272	6.5
1999	43,045	291	16.6	149	3.5	279	6.5
2000	44,794	244	5.4	125	2.7	230	5.1
2001	44,004	275	6.2	143	3.2	243	5.5

Source: Texas Vital Statistics 2001, Texas Department of Health

Figure 4-1: Race-Ethnic Specific Birth Rates Per 1,000 Houstonians



Source: Texas Vital Statistics 2001, Texas Department of Health
* Rate per 1,00 from City of Houston Population calculated by U.S. Census 2000 data.



All these measures showed a decline in Houston from 1998 to 2001 indicating that Houston is making headway in the care of its youngest citizens (Figure 4-2). Across the state, low and very low birth weight babies (>2,500 grams) occur at a higher rate among Blacks and also among mothers younger than 15 and older than age 40.

• Deaths •

The number of deaths (14,528) in Houston during 2001 was thirty-three percent (33%) of the total births (44,004), which accounted for a natural increase of 29,476 in 2001. Because the Hispanic death rate is the lowest among the three ethnic/racial groups and the birth rate is highest among Hispanics, more than 69% of the natural increase is Hispanic.

Only 12% of total city deaths are Hispanic, a small percentage compared to its 35% proportion of the population. For babies born in 2001, female Hispanics have the longest projected life span of any gender/ethnic group at 76.5 years.

Houston's death rates are difficult to accurately state because of differences in the way agencies collect data. Harris County's overall death rate are below the Texas level of death rates. This is probably in large due to a combination of the wealth of the region and the abundance of high quality health care in comparison to Texas as a whole. As with Texas, the leading cause of death in Houston is disease of the heart. (Figure 4-4).

**Figure 4-3: Harris County Death Rates in 2001
Rates Per 1000, Population**

	White	African-American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Harris	8.5	7.9	2.4	2.4	6.0
Texas	9.6	7.7	3.6	2.1	7.2

Source: Texas Vital Statistics 2001

Figure 4-4: Leading Causes of Death in Houston, 2001 (% of Total Deaths)

Deaths from Selected Causes	Houston	Texas
Diseases of the Heart	29.7%	28.3%
Malignant Neoplasms (Cancers, Tumors)	23.4%	21.9%
Cerebrovascular Diseases	7.9%	6.9%
Accidents and Adverse Affects	5.9%	5.1%
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	3.9%	5.1%
Diabetes Mellitus	3.5%	3.6%
Pneumonia and Influenza	2.4%	2.4%
Alzheimer's Disease	2.1%	2.3%
Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	1.9%	1.5%

Source: Texas Vital Statistics, 2001

Marriage and Divorce

A record of marriages and divorces is available only at the county level. In 2001, 33,897 marriage licenses were filed and 14,592 divorce decrees were granted in Harris County. This does not mean that almost half of the marriages end in divorce because there is no way of knowing how many couples who marry in any single year in Harris County will later be divorced.

• Allergens •

While not life threatening, allergies are a serious health issue for those who suffer from them. The City of Houston Health and Human Services Department collects spore counts for common allergens at a Texas Medical Center site. Because counts can vary widely over an area the size of Houston, these localized counts may not be indicative of the various levels over the entire city. However, these measurements can show the general trends of when certain allergens are more prevalent.

The number of mold spores in the air grows as the year progresses and peaks in early fall. Ragweed spores, which cause particularly strong allergic reactions in many people, are almost non-existent during most of the year, but spike upwards in September and October. Levels of tree pollen are at their highest point during the spring (Figure 4-5). Grass and other weed pollens remain at a fairly constant level throughout the year.

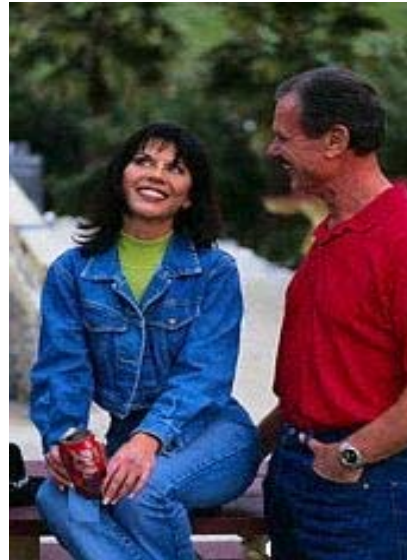
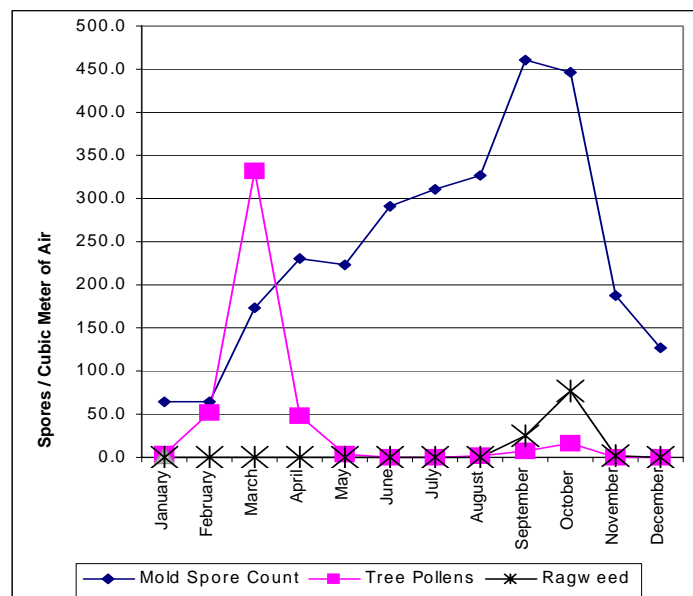


Figure 4-5: Monthly Average Mold, Tree Pollen, and Ragweed Spore Counts, 1999-2001



• Medical Facilities •

The **City of Houston Health and Human Services Department** operates 8 major clinics along with 1 major research facility that treated more than half a million people in FY 2000. The department offers information and education on HIV/AIDS and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases as well as immunizations for infants, children and adults. It also provides family planning, maternity/prenatal care as well as services for children such as well child examinations for children from birth through five years of age, dental services to the age of 21 and childhood lead poisoning prevention and screening.

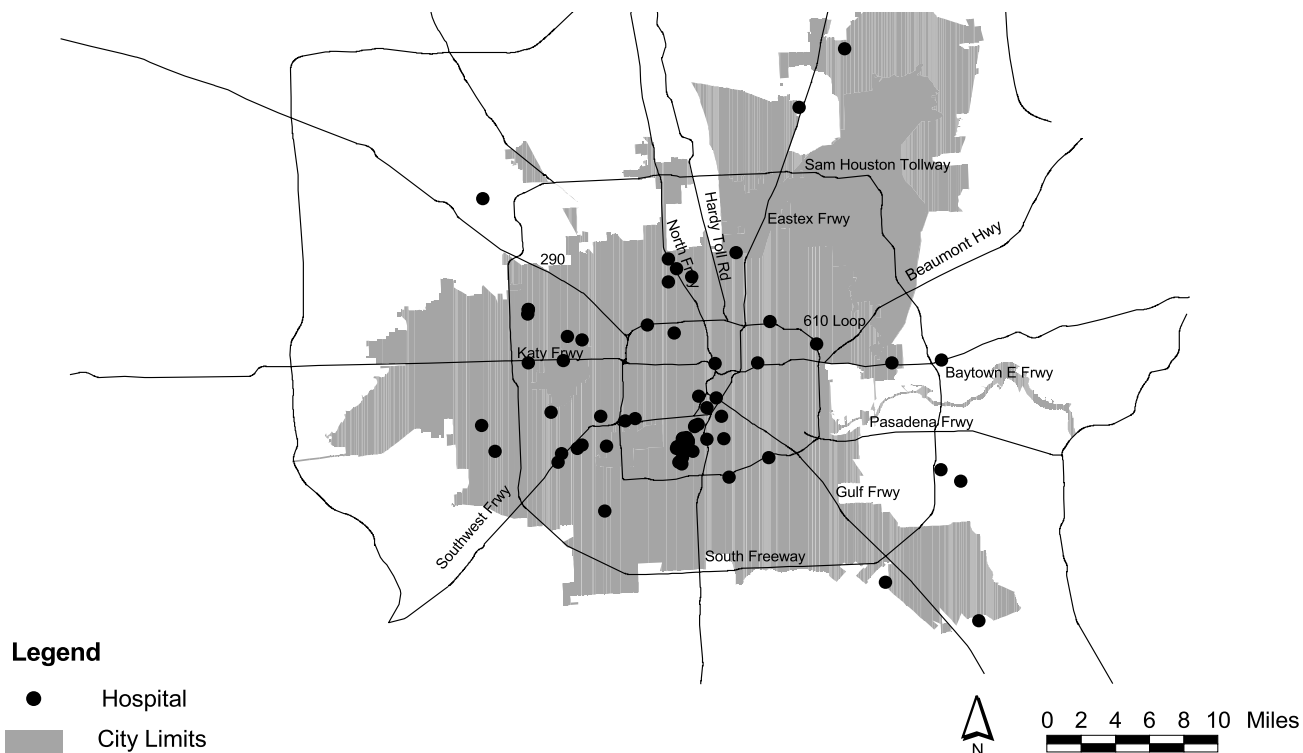
Harris County Health and Environment Services has programs in Health Education to promote healthy life-styles, as well as programs providing immunizations, family planning, lead

screening, maternity services, nutrition services, tuberculosis screening and well child services.

The **Harris County Hospital District (HCHD)** is the sixth largest health care provider in the country based on patient admissions. It is the public hospital system for the Houston Metropolitan area with the primary mission of serving Harris County residents who lack health insurance coverage.

Ben Taub General Hospital is the system's largest institution with 647 licensed-beds acute care. Nationally renowned as an Elite Level 1 Trauma Center and one of only two in Harris County, Ben Taub handles 100,000 emergency patients each year and is also home to the military's Joint Trauma Training Center to train doctors, nurses and medics for medical military operations.

Figure 4-6: Houston Hospitals (public and private)



HEALTH

Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital serves the northeast part of Harris County. It is classified as a Level 3 Trauma Care Center with more than 83,500 emergency patient visits each year and 332 licensed-beds acute care.

Quentin Mease Community Hospital, a 73 bed hospital for geriatric, psychiatric, and long-term physical rehabilitation patients, **Community Health Program**, a 12 clinic network that focuses on primary care, and **Thomas Street Clinic**, the nation's first free-standing AIDS clinic.

The Texas Medical Center of Houston (TMC) is the largest medical center in the world. It has a global reputation as a leading center for medical treatment, health education, and research. With 6,041 licensed beds and 426 bassinets the TMC served 5.4 million patient visits in 2000. In terms of education and research, 16,547 students attended regular classes, 88,198 participants enrolled in educational or professional retraining. Members of the TMC include:

Memorial Hermann Healthcare System – with the expansion of the healthcare program at this facility it makes this the largest community based not for profit healthcare system in Texas; with 12 different healthcare facilities, 1,150 beds, 2,542 faculty, voluntary and staff physicians, and over 3,500 employees.

Harris County Psychiatric Center serves the psychiatric needs of county residents with a 250-bed acute care public psychiatric center.

The Hospice at Texas Medical Center served over 1,500 terminally ill patients in 2001 with physical, emotional and spiritual care.

Methodist Healthcare System (The Methodist Hospital) – is the primary teaching site for Baylor College of Medicine, has international affiliations and is a leader in cardiac care and treatment.

St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital – performed the first human heart transplant and the first artificial heart transplant.

Health Program, a 12 clinic network that focuses on primary care, **Thomas Street Clinic**, the nation's first free standing AIDS clinic.

Shriner's Hospital for Children is one of 22 Shriner's Hospitals that provide free orthopedic care for children.

Texas Children's Hospital is the largest children's hospital in the country and has cared for more than one million children since opening it's doors in 1954.

Texas Heart Institute has the largest cardiovascular center in the world. Physicians at this institution have performed over 97,000 open heart surgeries 1000 transplants, 215,000 diagnostic cardiac catheterization procedures.

Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) specialized in medical care, education, and research in the field of catastrophic injury.

University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center served 86,000 patients in 2000-2001 and has been considered one of the nation's top 2 cancer treatment facilities for 10 years now.

Veteran's Affairs Medical Center provides primary care for veterans in East Texas and logs nearly 600,000 visits a year.



● Educational Institutions ●

Albert B. Alkek Institute of Biosciences and Technology is affiliated with Texas A&M. Its scientists perform interdisciplinary research in biotechnology, medicine, and agriculture.

Baylor College of Medicine is a world-renowned medical school with approximately 2,469 students and resident physicians pursuing specialty training.

Houston Academy of Medicine Texas Medical Center Library provides medical library resources for the TMC.

Houston Community College System Health Sciences Programs 1,500 students complete studies in 18 programs each year.

Houston Independent School District is a competitive preparatory school for students interested in careers in health fields.

Texas Woman's University TWU is a Doctoral/Research-Intensive University emphasizing the liberal arts and specializing in professional studies within the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Professional Education, the College of Health Sciences, the College of Nursing, the School of Occupational Therapy, the School of Physical Therapy, the School of Library and Information Studies, and the School of Management. TWU enrolls approximately 1000 students annually.

University of Houston College of Pharmacy offers a Doctor of Pharmacy degree as well as Master of Science in pharmaceuticals, pharmacology, and pharmacy administration and a Ph.D. in pharmaceuticals and pharmacology.

University of Texas, Houston Health Science Center includes Dental Branch, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Medical School, School of Allied Health Sciences, School of Nursing, School of Public Health, and Harris County Psychiatric Health Center.



Chapter 5

LAND USE *FACTS*

- ◆ **Background**
- ◆ **Existing Land Uses**
- ◆ **Mixed Use Activity Centers**

Land Use

AT A GLANCE

Land Use Categories

City of Houston's land area encompasses 633.63* square miles

	2001		2002	
Category	Acres	% of Total	Acres	% of Total
◆ Single-Family	79,801	21.0%	80,961	20.1%
◆ Multi-Family	14,648	3.8%	14,843	3.7%
◆ Commercial	15,386	4.0%	18,308	4.5%
◆ Office	4,812	1.3%	5,236	1.3%
◆ Industrial	25,762	6.8%	30,929	7.7%
◆ Public/Institutional	20,061	5.3%	18,172	4.5%
◆ Trans/Utilities	11,666	3.1%	11,477	2.9%
◆ Parks/Open Space	32,090	8.4%	41,468	10.3%
◆ Undeveloped	91,367	24.0%	85,721	21.3%
◆ Agricultural	10,017	2.6%	9,194	2.3%
◆ Open Water	13,905	3.7%	14,245	3.5%
◆ Roads	56,559	14.9%	68,249	16.9%
◆ No Data	4,473	1.2%	3,868	1.0%
CITYTOTAL	380,547	100.0%	402,641	100.0%

• Background •

Houston was founded on Buffalo Bayou in 1836 by two real estate brokers – John and Augustus Allen who purchased 6,642 acres. The initial town site of Houston consisted of a grid of sixty-two blocks (Figure 5–1). The earliest commercial center of the city was located downtown near Allen’s Landing (currently the Spaghetti Warehouse area). Residential uses developed south of Buffalo Bayou along Main Street.

The city's first boom began in 1857, when Houston became a rail center, and the next began in 1901 when oil was located in the area. Even with the growth, Houston made up only about 10 square miles. However, Houston's "Texas-size" growth took place from 1940 to 1960, when the city grew to include 420 square miles. Today the city is one of the largest in the country in terms of land area, covering 633.63 square miles.

Through the years many factors have shaped and contributed to land development and the pattern of land use in Houston. The advent of the electric streetcar in the 1890s allowed gradual expansion of residential uses further out to the southwest from the city core. By 1915, rail access to the Port of Houston and dredging of the Houston Ship Channel, which allowed passage of deep water vessels, had taken place. These factors combined to facilitate industrial development in the area generally located along the Ship Channel and

Figure 5-1: Houston, 1836



spreading eastward adjacent to rail lines that radiated from the Port.

Not unlike other American cities, the automobile has had a lasting impact on Houston's development. The advent of the automobile in the early 1900s enabled further expansion of the city with residential uses locating farther south and west of downtown. By the 1930s, strip shopping centers and drive-in commercial facilities fronting major thoroughfares were manifest signs of the city's automobile orientation. Predominantly residential development continued to extend farther west and southwest during this time, setting the stage for widespread suburban residential development in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s.

Growth and expansion of satellite areas of commercial, office, and multi-family residential uses at major transportation crossroads in the region characterized development in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The development of regional malls at major intersections accessible to suburban single family subdivisions served as the impetus for the creation of multi-use satellite centers.

Development in the 1990s was reflective of the recovery currently underway following the economic downturn in the 1980s, which brought development to a standstill. New development and redevelopment are occurring in many areas of the city, although the overall land use pattern and land use proportions have remained relatively stable. Growth in areas south of downtown and elsewhere within the 610 loop (the equivalent to a “central city”) has been dramatic in spite of the recent economic downturn.

• Existing Land Use •

In the City of Houston, single family residential is the single largest developed land use, followed by industrial use. Commercial and office uses occupy five percent of the total land area. About ten percent of the land is devoted to parks and open space, and five percent is under institutional and public use. Twenty one percent of the land within city limits is undeveloped (Figure 5-2).

The pattern of development is demarcated, and to a great extent shaped by the city's highway system. Freeways encircle the Central Business District (CBD) located at the city's core, and radiate out from the downtown loop. Outside the CBD loop, the Inner Loop (IH – 610) surrounds the oldest and most intensively developed area of the city, also referred to as Houston's inner city. Infill development outside the Inner Loop but inside the city is less dense and more suburban in character. The Outer Loop (Beltway 8) and even the larger loop of the Grand Parkway (much of which is in the planning stage) continue to open up land for development. New development and revitalization are also occurring in many areas inside the Inner Loop. Figure 5-4 shows the overall pattern of land use in Houston.

Figure 5-2: City of Houston Land Uses, 2002

	Acreage	Percent Total
Single Family	80,961	20.1%
Multi-Family	14,843	3.7%
Commercial	18,308	4.5%
Office	5,236	1.3%
Industrial	30,929	7.7%
Pub. Institutional	18,172	4.5%
Trans/Utilities	11,447	2.9%
Parks/Open Space	41,468	10.3%
Undeveloped	85,721	21.3%
Agriculture	9,194	2.3%
Open Water	14,245	3.5%
Roads	68,249	16.9%
No Data	3,868	1.0%
TOTAL	402,641	100%

Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

Chapter 5

Figure 5-3: New Residential Units Permitted 1998-2002

Single Family Residential			
Year	Inside Loop	Outside Loop	Total
1998	1,279	2,693	3,972
1999	1,473	2,608	4,081
2000	1,804	2,862	4,666
2001	1,604	2,735	4,339
2002	1,824	2,374	4,198
Total	7,984	13,272	12,719
Multi Family Residential			
Year	Inside Loop	Outside Loop	Total
1998	4,410	7,355	11,765
1999	1,169	3,785	4,954
2000	2,682	2,217	4,899
2001	2512	2951	5,463
2002	1905	5061	6,966
Total	12,678	21,369	34,047

Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

Single Family Residential Use: Single family developments are prevalent throughout Houston both in the inner city areas and the outer regions. Some older, inner city neighborhoods have changed from predominantly residential to a mixture of uses over the years. Between 1998 and 2002, 12,719 single-family units were permitted for construction in Houston. During these years, the development hot spots for single family use have been in the Clear Lake area on the outskirts of the city to the southeast followed by west Houston. Although single family use has predominantly expanded in areas outside the Inner Loop (IH 610), there has been a marked increase in single family (usually townhome) construction inside the Loop (Figure 5-3).

Multi-family Use: Construction permits were issued for 34,047 multi-family units in the City of Houston between 1998 and 2002, with about 70 % of the development locating outside the Inner Loop in west Houston. Inner city multi-family developments have mainly located in the west, southwest sections. Multi-family residential development has flourished in Houston after a slowdown in 1995 over previous years. In 1998 multi-family construction in the city reached a high of 11,765 multi-family units permitted for construction. This numbers declined steadily during 1998 through 2000 and has begun to increase in 2001 and 2002.

Commercial Use: Thoroughfare and freeway intersections have provided strategic locations for commercial establishments,

business centers, and shopping malls. The Houston area is home to more than 30 malls, prominent among which are Greenspoint, Willowbrook, Deerbrook and Woodlands malls to the north; Galleria, Memorial City, West Oaks, and Town and Country Center malls to the west; Baybrook mall to the south; and Sharpstown Center to the southwest. Northline, Gulfgate, Meyerland, and Northwest malls are located closer to the city center.

Between 1998 and 2002, 32,489 million square feet of commercial space were permitted for construction in Houston with the bulk of the commercial construction located outside the loop (Figure 5-5). About 70% (20 million square feet) of the total commercial space permitted for construction during these years was devoted to retail, hotel, amusement/recreation establishments and service stations. The rest (about 12 million square feet) was devoted to office use.

Industrial Use: In the past, industrial growth has been linear in arrangement and characterized by oil refineries and chemical production facilities in the eastern and southern parts of the city near the Port of Houston and railroads. However, as the city's industrial base has expanded from oil related industries to include hi-tech, biotech industries, and campus type facilities. Between 1998-2002, 20 million square feet of industrial space were permitted for construction in Houston, more than 90% of which was located outside the Inner Loop. Significant portions of this development have been concentrated along the US 290 West corridor.

Parks and Open Space: Houston has about 41,468 acres of parks, open spaces, and open water. Public open space and recreational areas in Houston are associated with the bayous flowing through the city from west to east. There are more than 300 parks and green spaces including 53 parks and public spaces in the CBD among office buildings and skyscrapers. The largest and most popular parks are Memorial Park and Hermann Park. Both of these parks are located in the urban

Figure 5-5: City of Houston Permitted Square Footage By Use, 1998-2002 (1000s)

Year	Office Commercial		
	Inside Loop	Outside Loop	Total
1998	144	5,193	5,337
1999	295	1,588	1,883
2000	286	2,517	2,803
2001	1,680	8,832	10,512
2002	2,398	9,556	3,354
Total	4,803	27,686	32,489
Year	Other Commercial		
	Inside Loop	Outside Loop	Total
1998	2,487	5,729	8,216
1999	1,012	4,161	5,173
2000	1,189	5,564	6,752
2001	3,399	6,430	6,901
2002	3,414	3,487	6,902
Total	11,501	25,371	36,872
Year	Industrial		
	Inside Loop	Outside Loop	Total
1998	534	5,388	5,923
1999	923	3,815	4,738
2000	112	2,809	2,921
2001	992	3,100	1,445
2002	267	1,178	1,444
Total	2,828	16,290	19,118
Year	Institutional/Public		
	Inside Loop	Outside Loop	Total
1998	389	3,330	3,720
1999	2,002	2,564	4,567
2000	1,703	1,457	3,159
2001	992	2,789	3,781
2002	320	1,979	2,299
Total	5,406	12,119	17,525

Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

setting of the inner city offering recreational space, and a variety of amenities for visitors and city residents. The two largest natural green spaces in the city occur in the area of Barkers and Addicks reservoirs located to the far west side of Houston. To the northeast lies Lake Houston, the city's largest water body covering over 12,000 acres.

The Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Houston manages over 20,000 acres of land, most containing buildings and fixtures, with a combined estimated value of more than \$2 billion dollars. The extensive park system is comprised of 307 City parks, 12,236 acres of water, 202 open spaces, zoological gardens with 5000 animals, an arboretum, an outdoor theatre, a velodrome, 8 golf courses, 43 swimming pools, 216 tennis courts, 174 baseball and softball fields, 121 football and soccer fields, 108 basketball courts and 56 pavillions, 162 picnic areas, 251 playgrounds and 79 miles of trails.

• Mixed Use Activity Centers •

Houston has a number of high intensity mixed use areas located along major transportation corridors or intersections. These areas serve as regional employment centers, and typically include a variety of uses, including office, retail, and other commercial, light industrial, and residential uses. In some cases, malls such as the Galleria and Greenspoint form part of the concentration of uses, which have evolved relative to market demand, location, and transportation factors.

Central Business District: Houston's CBD has historically accommodated many office uses including oil company headquarters, law offices, financial institutions and government facilities. It contains more than 39 million square feet of office space (Downtown Management District). The downtown also includes the Theater District which incorporates a range of cultural facilities. After a period of decline in the 1980s, the Houston Downtown has been undergoing a dramatic revitalization, and has become a vibrant center for business, medical facilities, entertainment and residential living. Some major redevelopment projects include:

Minute Maid Field: Minute Maid Field is Houston's new \$265 million Major League Baseball facility. This project has been an instrumental force for central-city revitalization and is home to the Houston Astros.

Downtown Arena: On November 7, 2000, Houston voters approved construction of a multi-purpose downtown arena, by a vote of 65% to 35%. The new arena is located near the George R. Brown Convention Center and the Hilton Americas Convention Center Hotel, on a four-block site bounded by La Branch, Jackson, Bell and Polk Streets. The arena now completed, and named "Toyota Center" is home to the Houston Rockets and Comets basketball franchises. Opening season in the new venue for the Rockets will take place October 10th with a preseason game event.

Bayou Place: Bayou Place is a recent addition to Houston's Theater District, and the center of Houston's entertainment world. It features live music and theater, dining, a multi-plex cinema, and billiards, making downtown Houston an appealing package for those who live in the city center, companies that locate there, business travelers, and vacationers.

Cotswold 2000: The Cotswold 2000 project is a three phase master plan, that is transforming the streetscape in 85 blocks of the historic north end of downtown Houston. This is being done through landscaping and street improvements that encourages pedestrian activity along with retail and residential



Rainbow Arch - Galleria Area

development. One notable feature of this project is the angled parking, which encourages street-level commercial activity. The project is an important component in the City's downtown revitalization efforts and is near completion.

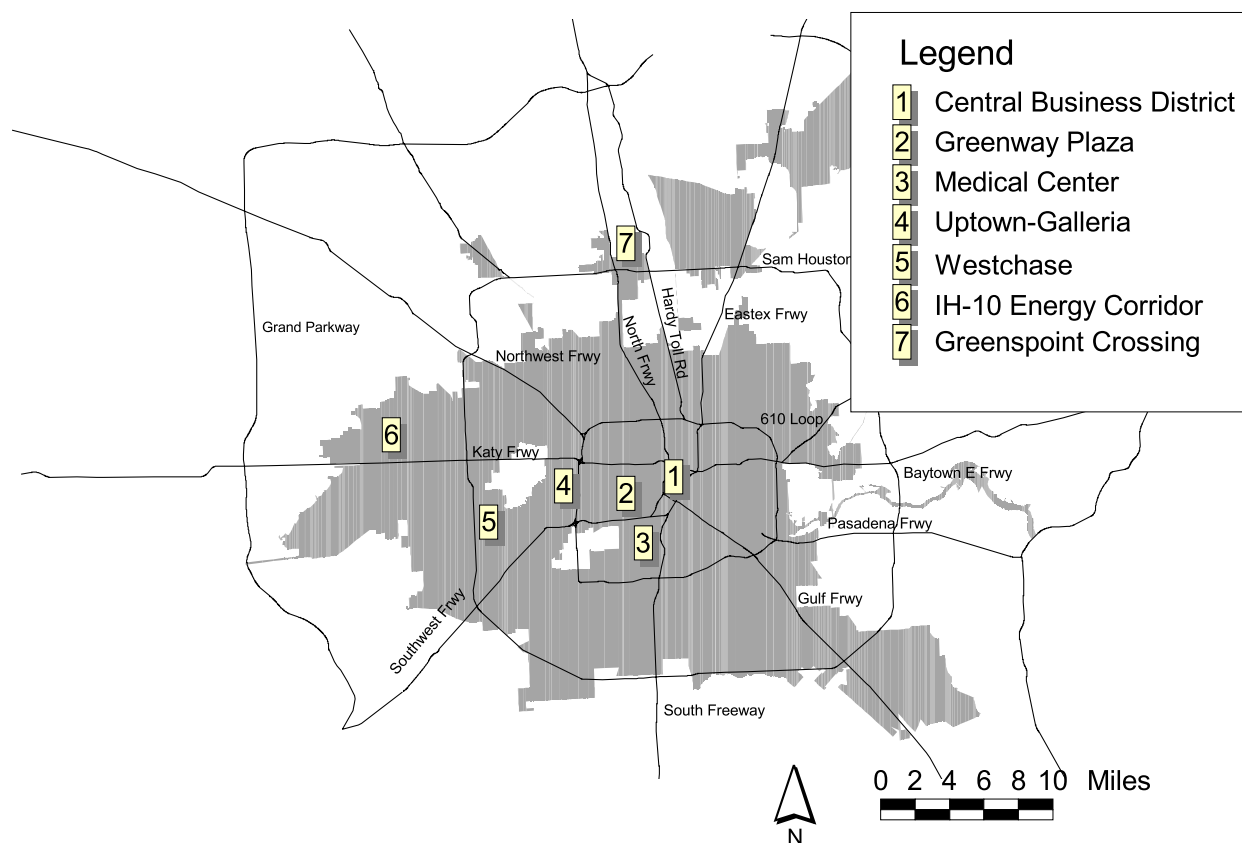
The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts: A new performing arts theater, The Hobby Center, is a \$75 million facility that has just been completed. It is expected to bring 500,000 patrons to downtown each year.

Sesquicentennial Park Project: Sesquicentennial Park, located near the Theater District, commemorates Houston's 150th anniversary. The park project is a \$20 million project, which has enhanced the park with additions such as improved hike and bike trails, adding to downtown's appeal.

Uptown-Galleria: The Uptown-Galleria area, situated at the intersection of two freeways and two major thoroughfares, is known for its bustling activity, and serves as a natural draw for visitors. Within four square miles the area includes retail, hotels, open spaces, restaurants, art, and entertainment. The



Williams Tower Fountain, (formerly Transco)
Uptown Galleria Area

Figure 5-6: Houston Activity Centers

Source: *Planning and Development Department, City of Houston.*

Uptown Galleria Area rivals the CBD for total office space with 27 million square feet of class A, B, and C office space (CB Richard Ellis). The Galleria mall began as an upscale shopping center, and has developed into a marketplace for international retailers. It includes more than 600 retail stores and restaurants, and is one of Houston's top tourist attractions. Uptown is comparable to downtown Los Angeles and Denver and served by 26 luxury hotels.

Greenway Plaza: Developed as a single mixed-use project, the Greenway Plaza area accommodates 14 million square feet of office space, hotels, retail, a sports arena, and high rise residential uses (CB Richard Ellis).

IH-10 Energy Corridor: The IH-10 energy corridor refers to the office, commercial and industrial development along I-H 10 in west Houston. The development of the "energy corridor" was initiated by oil companies, and has continued to grow.

Greenspoint Crossing area: The Greenspoint area is located close to Bush Intercontinental Airport. The development of the area as an activity center began with a shopping mall and some office space. Buoyed by its proximity to the airport, development in the area has grown to include hotels, apartments, and offices along Beltway 8. The 12 square mile area contains 17 million square feet of office, retail space and industrial properties.

Westchase: Westchase is an approximately 4.5 square miles development accommodating office, retail, and apartment uses in the heart of western suburban Houston. Accessibility through Beltway 8 has encouraged development in this area.

Medical Center Area: The Medical Center area is a multi-use activity area anchored by the Texas Medical Center, which accommodates more than 100 permanent buildings spread over 700+ acres. The Center is located close to two other centers of attraction, Rice University and Hermann Park, one of the city's largest parks. Expansions to the Medical Center are planned, including 10 million square feet of predominantly research-related development over the next 15 years.

Houston's Midtown: The long neglected area south of CBD is known as Houston's Midtown is quickly emerging as the premier "in-town" residential, academic and commercial community. Soon to be served by Houston's Light Rail System, it resists the traditional suburban development model for a more appropriate mixed-use pedestrian friendly atmosphere. A recent grand opening of a supermarket in midtown demonstrates this new approach with underground parking and a two-story structure with café style seating on a second story balcony. Recent mixed-use housing developments employ award winning quality architecture with street-level, pedestrian friendly commercial store-fronts.



Midtown Rendering 2002



Metro Light Rail Car 2003



Midtown Rendering 2002

Chapter 6

ECONOMY

FACTS

- ◆ **Business**
- ◆ **Employment**
- ◆ **Income and Wealth**
- ◆ **Cost of Living**
- ◆ **Energy Industry**
- ◆ **International Business**
- ◆ **Petrochemicals**
- ◆ **Medicine**
- ◆ **Aerospace**
- ◆ **Trade**
- ◆ **Real Estate**
- ◆ **Conventions and Events**
- ◆ **Economic Development**
- ◆ **Programs**

Economy

AT A GLANCE

The City of Houston :

- ◆ **Port of Houston**
 - First in U.S. in foreign waterborne commerce**
 - Second in total tonnage**
 - Local economic impact of \$9.6 billion dollars**

- ◆ **Texas Medical Center**
 - Largest Medical Center in the world**
 - Local economic impact of \$13 billion dollars**

- ◆ **Fourth largest multi-airport system in the nation**
 - Local economic impact over \$11 billion**

- ◆ **Second Lowest Cost of Living Among Major Cities for the past 6 years**

The Houston Metropolitan Area :

- ◆ **15 Fortune 500 Companies**

- ◆ **Over 5,000 energy related firms**

Houston Rankings

Houston Stands Among Top U.S. Cities

Houston appears among the top U.S. cities in lists prepared by the following publications and organizations:

Houston Ranks #1

Most Popular City for Relocating Employees within the U.S. in 1999
Cendant Mobility
June 2000

Lowest Cost of Living Among 25 Metropolitan Areas with Populations of More Than 1.7 Million
ACCRA Cost of Living Index
Second Quarter 2002

Least-Expensive Housing Among 25 Metropolitan Areas with Populations of More Than 1.7 Million
ACCRA Cost of Living Index
Second Quarter 2002

Fastest-Growing Cities in the 20th Century
American Business Journals
December 1999

Best Cities for African-Americans
Black Enterprise
July 2001

Best Value for a Quality Education: Rice University
Princeton College Guide 2003

Houston Ranks #2

Public Universities with the Most Ethnically Diverse Student Bodies: University of Houston
U.S. News On-Line
www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/codivers.htm
2001

Top Cities for African-American Families
BET.online 2002

Houston Ranks #3

Fastest-Growing High-Tech Workforce
AeA (American Electronics Association) and NASDAQ
December 2000

High-Growth Companies in Cities with Markets of More Than 3 Million
National Commission on Entrepreneurship
July 2001

Number of Foreign Consulates (76)
Houston International Protocol Alliance
April 2002

Houston Ranks #4

Fortune 500 Headquarters (ranked by Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area)
Fortune
April 16, 2002

Houston Ranks #5

Best Value in Universities: Rice University
America's Best Colleges 2003
U.S. News & World Report

Top "New Wave" Cities for Sports
Houston Chronicle survey of local and national sports executives, media and players
July 22, 2001

Houston Ranks #7

Creativity Index
measuring technology, talent and tolerance
Richard Florida, Ph.D.
The Rise of the Creative Class, 2002

Top 20 Places to Live and Work 2002

Employment Review.com
May 2002

Houston Ranks #8

Best Places to Live
Places Rated Almanac 2000

Best Cities for Singles
Forbes.com
June 6, 2002

Top 10 cities for Entrepreneurs 2002
Entrepreneur and Dun & Bradstreet

Other Accolades:

10 Best Places to Live in the USA
CityRating.com 2002

Top 10 Internet-Accessible Cities
Ohio State University study reported in Houston Business Journal
July 26, 2002

One of 12 Gold-Medal, World-Class Communities for Manufacturing
(fourth consecutive year)
Industry Week
April 16, 2001

Top 10 Metros for New and Expanded Facilities
Site Selection
March 2002

Top 10 Specialty Hospitals
Cancer centers, rehabilitation, heart treatment, neurology and pediatrics
U.S. News & World Report
July 22, 2002

"Best Buy" Colleges: Rice University
Fiske Guide to Colleges 2002

Source: Greater Houston Partnership, Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

Economic well being is fundamental to a region's quality of life. Houston's economy has experienced both growth and contraction over the last thirty years based largely on the fortunes of the energy industry, which has dominated the local economy. However, Houston's economy has diversified in the last ten years allowing it flourish in other venues such as distribution, chemical production and realty.

• Business •

The Houston area's top employers represent a diverse economy and a wide range of industries. The top ten employers represent education, government, airline, healthcare, food distribution and energy. Houston is well known for it's economic growth through energy and chemical industries. Over the past several years we have watched the economy diversify from that well known picture and develop into a kaleidoscope of other industries. Houston's top employers are now representative of such employers as Houston Independent School District, the City of Houston and Memorial Hermann Healthcare System. These sources of employment were slowly growing while the energy, oil and chemical industries were holding their positions as leaders. Although with the shift in the workforce during the last 5 years, as well as the impact of immigration to the greater Houston area, we see a rise in employment for these industries. Other representatives of Houston's employment echelon include electronics, business management firms, and telecommunications. These sources of industry require a higher skill level of education and experience. Whereas as the top employers grouping are representative of the majority labor force in Houston. Each of the ten largest corporate employers has a workforce greater than 10,000. Houston Independent School District is the largest employer in Houston, at 31,537 employees (Figure 6-1).

Houston is also home to 11 *Fortune 500* companies (*Fortune's* rankings are based on total revenues) (Figure 6-2). Seven of these

Figure 6-1: Top Houston Area Employers

1. Houston Independent School District Education 31,537 employees	6. U.S. Postal Service Mail 14,000 employees
2. City of Houston City Government 22,759 employees	7. Kellogg Brown & Root Energy Services 13,000 employees
3. Continental Airlines Airline 16,000 employees	8. Kroger Co. Groceries 12,000 employees
4. Harris County County Government 14,791 employees	9. HP Compaq Computer Corp. Electronics 11,000 employees
5. Memorial Hermann Healthcare System Health Care 14,000 employees	10. M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Health Care 10,733 employees

Source: Greater Houston Partnership

companies are in the top 50 of *Fortune's* top 100 Business's for 2002. For 2002, six of Houston's top ten *Fortune 500* companies are in the energy sector with business and electronics hailing ground for the remainder.

Figure 6-2: Fortune 500 Companies Headquartered in Houston

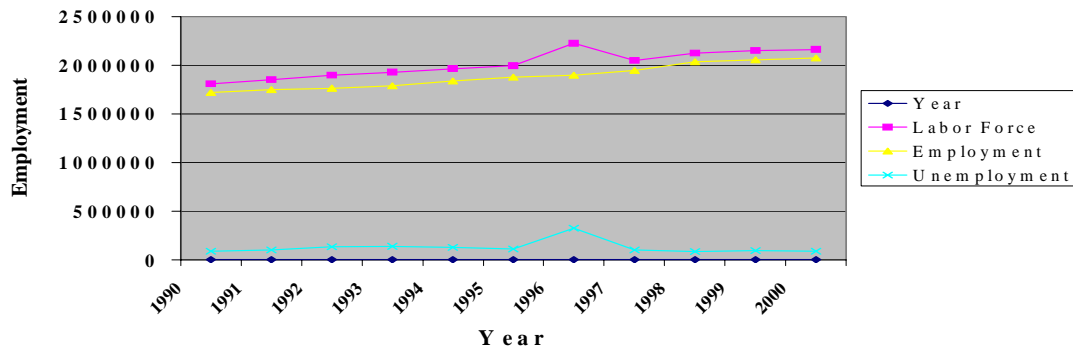
Company (rank)	Revenue (\$000,000s)	Company (rank)	Revenues (\$000,000s)
Reliant Energy (26)	46,225.80	Adams Resources & Energy (351)	4,717.20
Dynegy (42)	42,242.00	Administaff (376)	4,373.20
Marathon Oil (43)	34,041.00	Cooper Industries (386)	4,209.50
Compaq Computer	33,554.00	Group 1 Automotive (408)	3,996.40
Conoco (48)	32,795.00	Encompass Services (412)	3,980.50
Sysco (95)	21,795.00	Smith International (448)	3,551.20
Waste Management (172)	11,322.00	Burlington Resources (470)	3,326.00
Continental Airlines (216)	8,969.00	Lyondell Chemical (478)	3,226.00
Anadarko Petroleum (232)	8,369.00	Enterprise Products (484)	3,179.70

Source: *Fortune*, April 15, 2002

- Eighteen companies on the *Fortune 500* list are headquartered in Houston.
- Houston ranks fourth among metro area in the number of *Fortune 500* Headquarters, behind New York, Chicago and San Francisco. Many other *Fortune 500* companies maintain U.S. administrative headquarters in Houston.
- More than half of the world's 100 largest non-U.S.-based corporations have operations in Houston.
- D&B reports 27,547 Houston-area (CMSA) business firms with annual sales of \$1million or more.

• Employment •

Figure 6-3: Houston, Employment 1990-2000



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics 2002

Figure 6-4: Employment by Sector 1995-2000

	Year	Annual Avg	Percent Change
<i>Mining</i>	1995	64.0	-3.6%
	1996	64.6	0.8%
	1997	67.4	4.4%
	1998	69.5	3.1%
	1999	63.4	-8.8%
	2000	63.9	0.8%
<i>Manufacturing</i>	1995	106.7	6.4%
	1996	115.5	8.2%
	1997	125.4	8.6%
	1998	134.0	6.9%
	1999	125.3	-6.4%
	2000	126.9	1.2%
<i>Trade</i>	1995	115.0	3.6%
	1996	118.0	2.6%
	1997	123.9	5.0%
	1998	129.4	4.4%
	1999	129.4	0.0%
	2000	127.2	-1.7%
<i>FIRE</i>	1995	95.3	-3.2%
	1996	96.1	0.8%
	1997	100.2	4.3%
	1998	106.9	6.7%
	1999	112.7	5.4%
	2000	114.0	1.1%
<i>Government</i>	1995	243.4	2.7%
	1996	245.7	0.9%
	1997	251.4	2.3%
	1998	256.4	2.0%
	1999	262.3	2.3%
	2000	266.6	1.6%

Houston

	Year	Annual Avg	Percent Change
<i>Construction</i>	1995	119.7	5.0%
	1996	125.8	5.1%
	1997	127.0	0.9%
	1998	138.4	9.0%
	1999	146.7	6.0%
	2000	153.7	4.8%
<i>Retail</i>	1995	299.1	3.2%
	1996	304.5	1.8%
	1997	311.5	2.3%
	1998	321.2	3.1%
	1999	334.2	4.1%
	2000	345.8	3.5%
<i>Transportation</i>	1995	123.2	3.9%
	1996	125.8	2.1%
	1997	113.0	5.7%
	1998	142.4	7.1%
	1999	146.7	3.0%
	2000	151.5	3.3%
<i>Services</i>	1995	518.0	5.2%
	1996	534.0	3.1%
	1997	570.2	6.8%
	1998	608.8	6.8%
	1999	624.3	2.5%
	2000	647.1	3.7%

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics 2002

● Income and Wealth ●

Of the ten largest cities, after adjusting for inflation, three cities (New York, Los Angeles and Philadelphia) registered a decrease in median household incomes. (Fig. 6-5). In 2000, among the four largest cities, only Houston and Chicago registered a decrease in the percentage of persons in poverty. These cities also were the only ones among the top four cities that saw increases in median household income. The Census data is collected using a consistent sampling of the population throughout all cities and can be compared nationally. Based on the status of other major cities, Houston has been faring well in the increase of income and the cost of living for its citizens. The income rank makes it one of the reasons why Houston holds position on the top 10 best places to live in the United States. (CityRating.com 2002).

Income like wealth is one of the components used to gauge an area's overall economic well being. This can be measured by the amount of money deposited in local banks. Over a six-year span Houston area banks and financial institutions have increasingly grown in the number as well as in its deposits. (Fig. 6-7). From 1995 to 2000 the amount of deposits have increased by 15%. Although the number of banks in Houston for the

Figure 6-5: Median Household Income

City	Median Household Income	
	1990*	2000
New York	\$38,643	\$38,293
Los Angeles	\$40,036	\$36,687
Chicago	\$35,433	\$38,625
Houston	\$34,224	\$36,616
Philadelphia	\$32,964	\$30,746
Phoenix	\$39,705	\$41,207
San Diego	\$44,571	\$45,733
Dallas	\$36,345	\$37,628
San Antonio	\$31,445	\$36,214
Detroit	\$25,117	\$29,526

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

*Note: 1990 Incomes have been adjusted for inflation.

Figure 6-7: Deposits in Harris County Banks

Year	Number of Banks (Institutions)	Deposits (millions of \$)
1995	122	38,433
1996	109	39,363
1997	109	42,342
1998	105	46,300
1999	100	48,099
2000	98	50,226
2001	129	65,224
2002	135	72,500

Source: FDIC 2002

Figure 6-7: Cost of Living Index Compared, 2000

Metro Area	Composite	Groceries	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Health Care	Misc. Goods & Services
San Diego	137.8	125.4	194.8	79.8	121.9	133.3	115.1
Boston	135.5	114.8	177.3	153.9	106.4	134.8	114.6
Los Angeles	135.2	109.6	199.1	110.6	112.9	111.1	109.6
Washington	129.7	112.6	166.1	115.3	124.4	118.3	113.8
Denver	102.9	105.5	109.2	75.2	109.5	119.1	98.6
Dallas	98.0	96.3	92.6	98.4	96.8	100.7	103.2
Atlanta	97.7	101.0	96.2	92.4	102.5	102.0	96.6
Phoenix-Mesa	96.2	102.0	84.6	96.8	107.2	111.2	97.5
Tampa	95.0	96.7	89.1	102.4	105.8	92.1	94.5
Houston	91.6	89.3	79.1	96.4	106.0	101.0	96.4

Source: American Chamber of Commerce Research Association

Houston's unemployment rate follows the trends of both the Texas rate and the US rate.

● Cost of Living ●

Along with San Antonio, a Texas neighbor, Houston is one of the most affordable among the nation's major cities (Figure 6-7). Combining all the factors measured, Houston's composite cost of living index is six percent below that of the average US city regardless of size. To gather this data, the American Chamber of Commerce samples prices in all participating cities to create an index for comparing the cost of living in various US cities.

• Energy Industry •

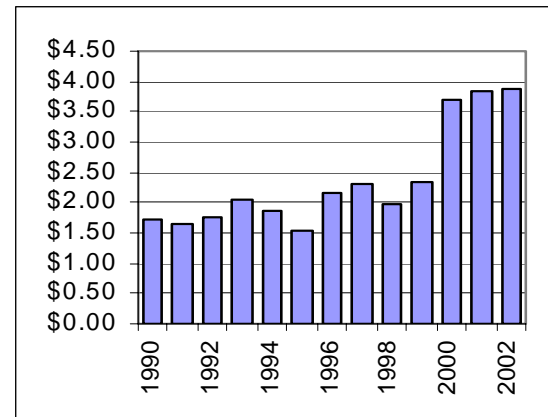
Houston more than delivers when it comes to offering a comprehensive range of energy industry assets. Having the full spectrum from technology to transportation, Houston's companies represent virtually every energy sector, from oil and gas to electric and petrochemical. If you settle in Houston, you will find what you need in regards to energy.

- The energy industry is one of the most important sectors of Houston's economy with over 5,000 energy related firms, including more than 400 exploration and production companies, more than 30 pipeline operations and hundreds of manufacturers of products utilized by the industry.
- Forty-seven of the nation's 200 largest publicly traded oil and gas exploration and production companies are located here.
- More than a quarter of all U. S. jobs in crude petroleum and natural gas extraction, one – seventh of all oil and gas field service jobs and more than a third of all oilfield machinery jobs are in Houston.
- Two of the four largest U.S. refineries are located here.
- The Houston- Gulf Coast region has nearly 49% of the nation's base petrochemical capacity, that is more than quadruple that of its nearest U.S. competitor.

All eyes were on Texas in January 2002 when the state deregulated its electricity market. During 2001, there were 1.7 million customers within the 5, 000-square mile area in and around Houston who consumed 66.8 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity. Industrial customers used approximately 41 percent of this power, commercial customers used 27 percent, and residential customers used 32 percent. Although not the first state to deregulate its electricity industry, Texas' approach to deregulation has several unique features, and many spectator states are following the progress of the new system, hoping to borrow the Texas model for their own future deregulation efforts.

According to the Greater Houston Partnership, Texas received high marks for protecting customers by requiring utility companies separate their competitive and regulated businesses, for adopting business practices that are uniform across the state, and for establishing a bilateral wholesale market for electric power. A bilateral market allows buyers and sellers to

Figure 6-8: Natural Gas Prices Per Thousand Square Feet

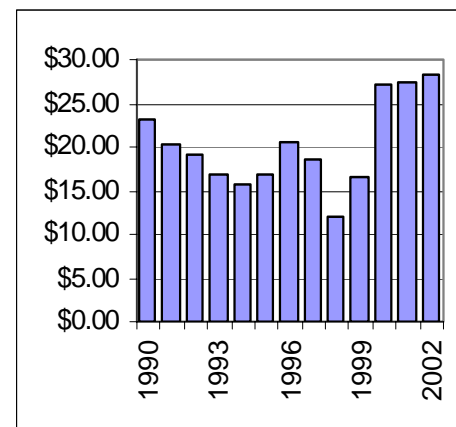


Source: *DATABook Houston*, UH Center for Public Policy 2002



Port of Houston Oil Production
Leg Extension, 2002

Figure 6-9: Average Posted Price Per Barrel of West Texas Crude Oil



Source: *DATABook Houston*, UH Center for Public Policy 2002

contract for power over a long period of time to keep prices stable.

The Houston metropolitan area is home to 28 of the nation's largest publicly traded oil and gas exploration and production firms Greater Houston Partnership (GHP). Although natural gas prices declined in 1998, the overall price trend has been upward since 1990 (Figure 6-8). In contrast, crude oil prices have been in a general trend downward from a 1990 high of \$23.26 per barrel to a 1998 low of \$11.95 per barrel (Figure 6-9). In 1998 prices rebounded to over \$16 per barrel.

• Petrochemicals •

Houston touches the lives of many citizens nationally dozens of times every day. That's because Houston is one of the largest manufacturing centers for petro-chemicals- the basic building blocks for producing thousands of consumer goods and products. Whether it is ubiquitous plastic soft drink bottles and disposable diapers or highly engineered automobile body parts and medical equipment, much of today's modern economy is built from petrochemic-based products that were manufactured in Houston or along the upper Texas Gulf Coast.

Metropolitan Houston, with 300 chemical manufacturing firms, is a major location for the production of petrochemicals. As oil prices fall, the petrochemical industry profits because oil is its raw material. Houston's petrochemical capacity is three times larger than the nearest competing US site. It also has a large share of the nation's production capability for many types of plastic such as polypropylene and polyethylene (GHP).

• International Business •

Houston is a center for international business, evidenced by the fact that 70 nations have consular offices in the city. Houston ranks fourth in the nation behind New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco in the number of consular offices. This international influence extends to Houston-based companies operating abroad in Europe (182 companies) and Asia (147 companies).



• Medicine •

Houston is home to the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world. It has 6,577 licensed beds and serves 5.4 million patients each year. In addition to the hospitals, there are many health-related institutions in the Texas Medical Center: two medical schools, two graduate schools of bio-sciences, a dental school, two pharmacy colleges, the state's only school of public health, and a high school for health professionals. In total, the center employs 61,041 people and has an indirect economic impact of over \$13 billion annually.



• Aerospace •

The Johnson Space Center (JSC), located about twenty-five miles from downtown Houston, is NASA's lead facility for the Space Shuttle, the International Space Station, and many other operations. It employs 18,436 people and has an estimated yearly economic impact of \$4 billion (JSC Annual Economic Report FY 2002).

JSC serves as the lead NASA center for the [International Space Station](#) — a U.S.-led collaborative effort of 16 nations, and the largest, most powerful, complex human facility to ever operate in space. Orbiting 240 miles above the Earth, this working laboratory will serve as a stepping-stone to other planets — teaching us the essentials of long-term living in space.



• Trade •

Houston's infrastructure fosters an environment in which trade, both national and international has become a key element of the City's economic health.

The Port of Houston is a 25-mile-long complex of diversified public and private facilities located just a few hours' sailing time from the Gulf of Mexico. The port is ranked first in the United States in foreign waterborne commerce, second in total tonnage, and sixth in the world.

Approximately 194 million tons of cargo moved through the Port of Houston in 2001. A total of 6,613 vessel calls were recorded at the Port of Houston during the year 2001.

The Houston Ship Channel has been a catalyst for growth in Harris County since the first journey of a steamship up Buffalo Bayou in 1837. Port activity generates 75,487 direct jobs and 129,033 indirect jobs. More than 90 percent of jobs generated at these terminals are held by residents of Harris County. An annual economic impact of 7.7 billion dollars is generated by businesses providing services at the public and private marine terminals on the Channel. It is projected that the Port of Houston will continue to be an important factor as north-south trade expands.

Houston's three major airports also make significant contributions to the city's ability to

Figure 6-10: 2001 Trade

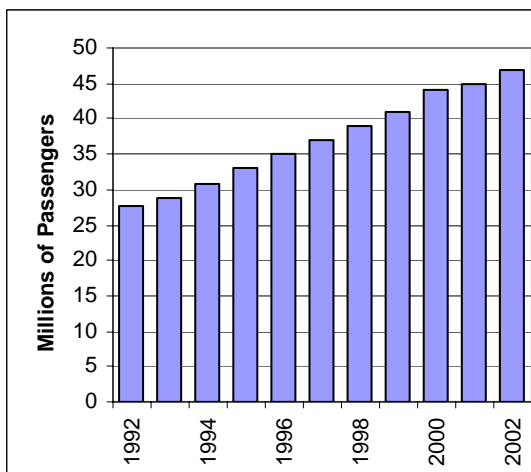
Leading Trading Partners Combined Import and Export By Dollar Value	
Mexico	\$5,159,968,314
Germany	\$3,101,492,230
Brazil	\$2,461,848,826
Venezuela	\$2,283,053,087
Saudi Arabia	\$2,050,068,336
Leading Commodities Combined Import and Export By Dollar Value	
Petroleum and Petroleum Products	\$13,429,404,936
Machinery	\$7,247,697,457
Organic Chemicals	\$5,059,261,268
Iron and Steel	\$2,609,703,529
Electric Machinery	\$2,345,077,434

Source: *Port of Houston Authority 2002*

be a major trading center. Both passengers and freight have increased substantially since 1992 (Figures 6-11 and 6-12). Combined, Bush Intercontinental Airport, William P. Hobby Airport, and Ellington Field are the fourth-largest multi-airport system in the United States, and the sixth largest in the world. Collectively in 2002, the system has transported 36,351,682 domestic passengers, 729,069 cargo tons, and 1,534,146 aircraft operations. Based on the last economic study of 2002, the Houston Airport System generates over 95,000 jobs and have an annual economic impact of \$9 billion.

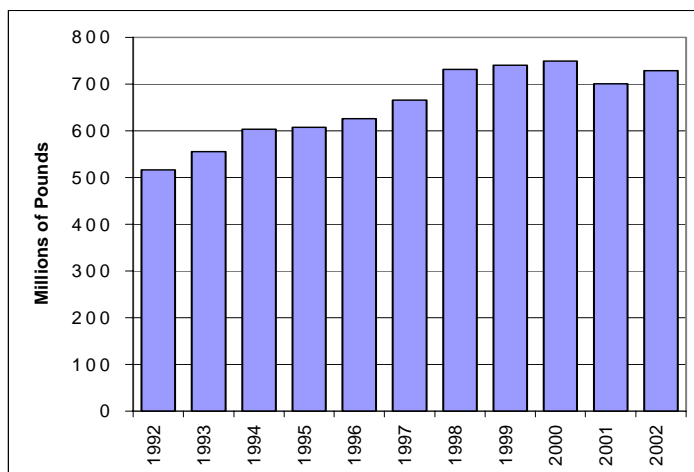
Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) is located 22 miles north of downtown Houston. In 2002 it served over 46 million passengers (domestic and international) which made it the

Figure 6-11: Airport Passengers 1992-2002



Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

Figure 6-12: Airport Freight 1992-2002



Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

ECONOMY

nation's 12th busiest commercial airport for total passengers and the eighth busiest for international passengers. Twenty-three airlines offer service to approximately 150 US destinations.

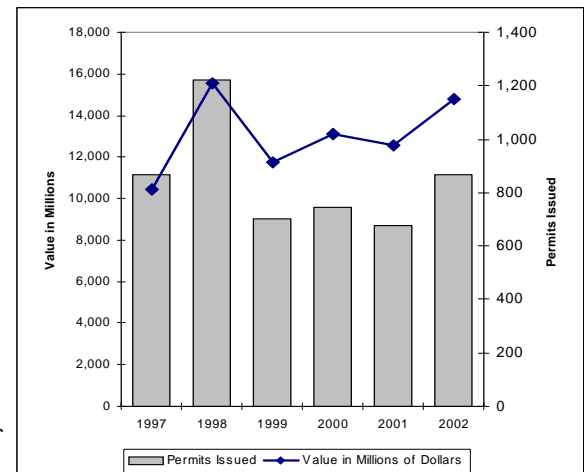
William P. Hobby Airport is just 7 miles from Houston's central business district. Smaller than Bush Intercontinental, it handled 8,035,727 million passengers, 11,768 cargo tons and 246,230 aircraft operations in 2002 which made it the 40th busiest airport in the US for total passengers.

Located in southeast Houston, Ellington Field, formerly a military training site, is now used for both civilian and military purposes. This particular airport transported 76,035 passengers, 115,268 cargo tons, and 102,016 aircraft operations in 2002. It is home to the Texas Air and Army National Guards as well as corporate, commercial, cargo, and aerospace related industries.



IAH Bush Intercontinental Airport

Figure 6-13: Construction Value & Residential Units Permitted



Source: *Growth Indicators*: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

• Real Estate •

One of the best barometers of a local economy is its real estate market. The real estate market responds to the demands of a growing economy that include increasing population and expanding businesses. Meeting these demands further fuels the economy because of the large number of workers and high dollar value of resources involved in construction.

As residents prosper and purchase more expensive housing or newcomers move to the area, the residential housing market grows. The number of residential permits issued by the City of Houston increased by 225% between 1997 and 2002 and the value of this construction increased by 145% during the same

Figure 6-14: Retail Occupancy Rate and Cost Per Square Foot

Occupancy Rate					
	Strip Center ≤25,000 sq. ft.	Neighborhood Center ≤150,000 sq.ft.	Community Center ≤150,000 <600,000 sq. ft.	Regional Mall >600,000 sq. ft.	Overall
1997	87.00%	83.60%	86.80%	89.90%	86.60%
1998	87.90%	84.20%	86.90%	87.80%	86.60%
1999	87.90%	85.70%	88.00%	88.20%	87.50%
2000	89.10%	87.40%	86.90%	92.10%	88.30%
2001	88.20%	86.30%	84.90%	88.10%	86.50%
2002	87.20%	85.50%	82.50%	86.90%	85.10%
Cost Per Square Foot					
1997	\$0.77	\$0.89	\$1.10	\$2.69	\$1.57
1998	\$0.78	\$0.92	\$1.13	\$3.46	\$1.34
1999	\$0.80	\$0.95	\$1.17	\$3.41	\$1.58
2000	\$0.88	\$1.03	\$1.33	\$3.04	\$1.46
2001	\$0.89	\$1.04	\$1.34	\$3.01	\$1.45
2002	\$0.90	\$1.04	\$1.34	\$3.16	\$1.50

Source: O'Connor and Associates

Figure 6-15: Office Occupancy Rate and Cost Per Square Foot

Year	Average Office Vacancy Rate	Average Office Annual Rental Rate/Sq.Ft
1997	84.28%	\$13.94
1998	87.62%	\$16.48
1999	87.41%	\$18.04
2000	86.70%	\$18.85
2001	88.52%	\$19.52
2002	86.34%	\$18.94

Source: O'Connor and Associates

time period. Of the total units permitted during this period, 210% were multi-family units (Figure 6-13).

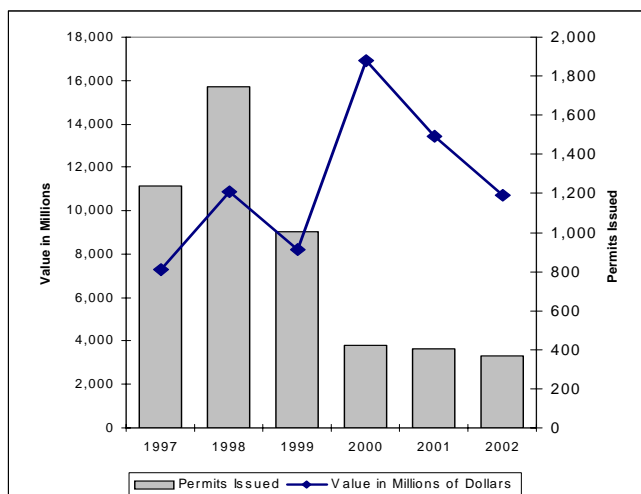
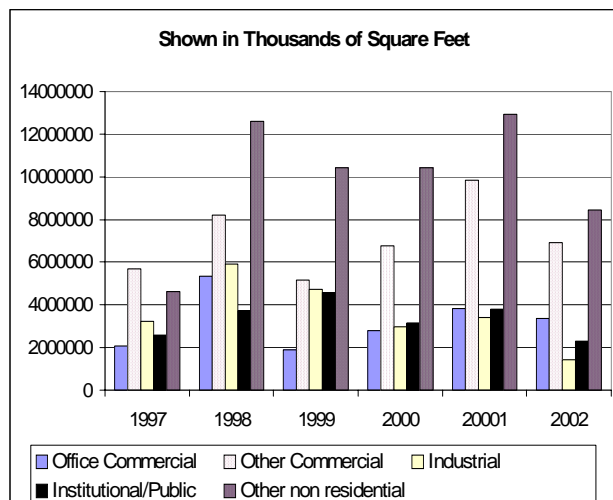
Nonresidential construction has also been increasing rapidly. Two key drivers in this area are vacancy rates and rental rates. Retail lease rates and occupancy rates have remained fairly stable since 1995 (Figure 6-15). Houston office space remains a bargain among major metro areas. In 2002 rents averaged \$18.94 per square foot in the Central Business District, and ranged from \$14.25 to \$20.01 in suburban markets. Industrial space has also seen small increases in occupancy rates and lease costs during this time period.

The biggest gains in occupancy rates were in Manufacturing Facilities and Mini Warehouse, increasing from 92.5% to 93.2% and 94.2.0% to 97.0% respectively, between 2001 and 2002 (Figure 6-16).

Figure 6-16: Industrial Occupancy and Cost Per Square Foot

Occupancy Rate								
	Distribution Center	Manufacturer Facility	Mini Warehouse	Office / Warehouse	Research and Development	Service Center	Warehouse	Overall
1997	79.9%	97.3%	87.3%	92.5%	100.0%	87.9%	95.7%	94.0%
1998	82.0%	98.3%	97.4%	93.3%	100.0%	88.4%	96.4%	94.7%
1999	81.3%	95.8%	89.0%	91.7%	99.5%	87.4%	94.6%	92.0%
2000	77.8%	92.0%	90.0%	90.2%	99.4%	87.2%	92.8%	91.0%
2001	79.9%	92.5%	94.2%	89.4%	98.8%	87.4%	90.8%	90.1%
2002	76.0%	93.2%	97.0%	88.2%	95.3%	86.3%	89.0%	88.9%
Cost Per Square Foot								
1997	\$0.32	\$0.23	\$0.51	\$0.35	\$0.33	\$0.48	\$0.27	\$0.33
1998	\$0.33	\$0.25	\$0.54	\$0.37	\$0.33	\$0.50	\$0.28	\$0.35
1999	\$0.35	\$0.25	\$0.55	\$0.38	\$0.33	\$0.55	\$0.28	\$0.36
2000	\$0.38	\$0.26	\$0.63	\$0.40	\$0.33	\$0.52	\$0.30	\$0.38
2001	\$0.41	\$0.29	\$0.65	\$0.42	\$0.42	\$0.53	\$0.31	\$0.39
2002	\$0.39	\$0.30	\$0.66	\$0.42	\$0.46	\$0.52	\$0.32	\$0.40

Source: O'Connor and Associates

Figure 6-17: Construction Value and Non Residential Space PermittedSource: *Growth Indicators*: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston**Figure 6-18: Square Feet of Non Residential Space (based on permits)**Source: *Growth Indicators*: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

• Conventions and Events •

With demand strong, construction of new nonresidential units (measured by permits issued) increased 98% between 1997 and 2002. Similarly, the value of projects under construction went up 194%, from \$807 million to \$7,173.56 billion during the same time period (Figure 6-17). The total number of square feet of space under construction jumped 295% between 1997 and 2002 (Figure 6-18).

Houston is a popular location for conventions, and ranks second in the nation for meeting space with 4 million square feet. With 94,000 hotel rooms, there are plenty of places to stay while attending a convention in Houston.

Houston's facilities include:

George R. Brown Convention Center

With already an impressive square footage of over 500,000, the George R. Brown Convention Center's expansion of \$110 million dollars, puts this facility at nearly 1 million square feet of exhibit, gala, banquet and meeting rooms among the top such facilities in the country.

Astrodome

1.15 million square feet, with complete convention and exhibition centers

Compaq Center

Home to over 300 events per year as well as home the following premier sport venues;
Houston Rockets (Men's Basketball)
Houston Comets (Women's Basketball)
Houston Aeros (Hockey)
Houston Hotshots (Indoor Soccer)
Texas Terror (Indoor Football)

Minute Maid Ruggle Park

This state of the art facility is one of Houston's stellar venues at 28.97 acres of gross square footage equaling a total of 2,263,240 square feet. The height is 93 feet to the last seating tread, equivalent to a nine-story building. The roof at Minute Maid Park, however, retracts completely off the ballpark to reveal the largest open area of any retractable roofed baseball stadium in existence today. skyline, even when the roof is in the closed position.



Minute Maid Ruggle Field



Reliant Stadium



Astrodome

● Economic Development Programs ●

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ)s are special districts created by the City Council to attract new investment to an underdeveloped or blighted area. There are 20 such zones (Figure 6-19). Once the zone is created, taxes for existing improvements continue to flow to the City's General Revenue fund. Taxes attributable to new improvements (tax increment) are set aside to finance public improvements in the zone area. For example, the Midtown TIRZ was organized by public petition through the initiative of the Midtown Redevelopment Association, a nonprofit group of area property owners and stakeholders. It will help pay for infrastructure improvements to support several projects currently under way including retail developments and 1,400 new residential units.

Public Improvement Districts (PID)s are created by the City of Houston to provide limited special services and improvements above and beyond what is normally provided by the City such as landscaping, parking, enhanced security, and marketing. Property owners in the PID pay special property assessments into a fund administered by the City in conjunction with an advisory body. There are 6 PIDs (January 1999) which are located in Memorial Heights, Sharpstown, Village Enclave (2), and St. George Place (2).

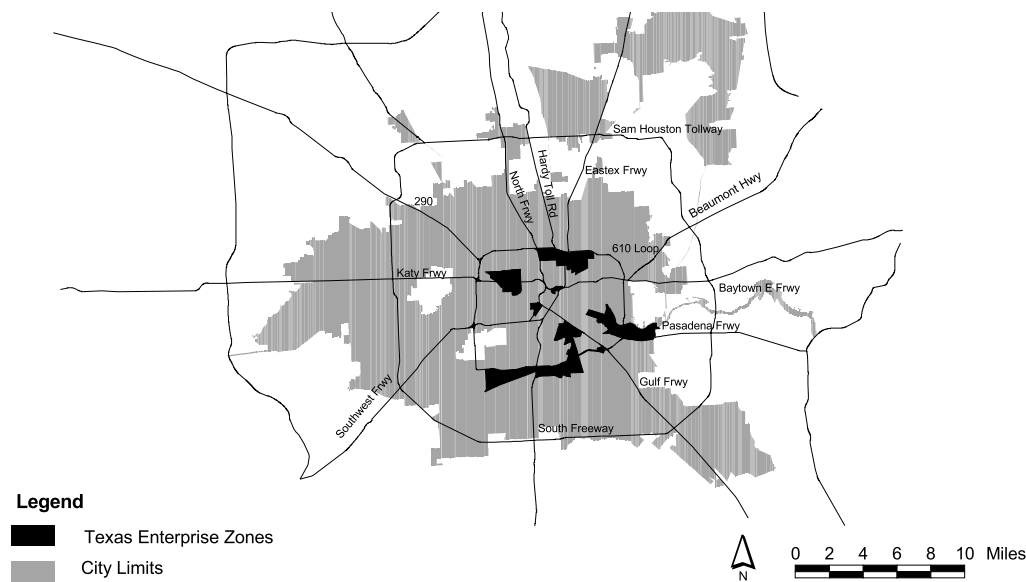
An **Enhanced Enterprise Community (EEC)** is an area designated under the Federal Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community program making it eligible for certain Federal Funds. Houston's EEC is a 19.8 square mile area containing the Houston Central Business District and surrounding neighborhoods. The federal monies made available under this designation fund two programs; a Micro-Enterprise Loan Program which makes loans of between \$5,000 and \$45,000 to finance new business start-ups and a Small Business Loan Program which provides loans to attract new businesses to the area and encourage existing businesses to expand. As an example, the Renaissance Center Project used a loan guarantee from the program for the acquisition and redevelopment of an office and retail shopping center in the Third Ward.

The **Brownfields Redevelopment Program** is a City program designed to facilitate the reuse of eligible inner city properties identified as Houston brownfields. It does this by making free Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments available to determine the nature of the contamination at an applicant's property. Seven projects have been completed at the cost of \$405 million and 5 projects are under way. As of December 2001, the program has created 2,372 new jobs, facilitated construction of 992 housing units; and returned more than \$1.6 million in delinquent taxes.

Tax Abatements encourage economic development and job creation by attracting private investment into an area and contributing to the retention or expansion of primary employment. There are currently five different types of tax abatements in Houston: (1) Economic Development, (2) Redevelopment, (3) Enterprise Zone, (4) Residential, and (5) Brownfields. Figure 6-20 depicts tax abatement zones.

Municipal Management Districts (MMD)s are established by the Texas Legislature and have the power to levy taxes and assess property owners for a variety of improvements and services. An example of a MMD is the Greater Greenspoint Management District which extends over 12 square miles and includes 9 million square feet of office space and 4 million square feet of retail space. It was created by a special bill of the Texas Legislature through the initiative of local business leaders to spur economic development through such activities as tree planting, landscaping, signage and public safety. Since creation of the district, the area's crime rate has fallen and occupancy rates have risen.

Enterprise Zones (EZ)s are areas designated by the Texas Department of Commerce. State and local governments provide severely distressed areas with incentives to induce private investment by removing governmental regulatory barriers to economic growth and by providing tax incentives and economic development benefits. As an example, Continental Airlines, Inc. relocated its worldwide headquarters to Houston's Central Business District, which is part of the City's

Figure 6-21: Texas Enterprise Zones

Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

Federal Enterprise Community. The project was designated an Enterprise Project in April 1998 and qualified to receive state tax benefits for a 5-year period. Continental Airlines committed to an investment of over \$56 million, the retention of 3,094 jobs, and the potential creation of 624 new jobs of which 25% may be filled by EZ residents (Figure 6-21).

The **Targeted Employment Zone Program** provides assistance to foreign investors applying for the federal Investor Visa Program, which sets aside visas for qualified immigrants establishing new commercial enterprises that would create jobs in a “targeted employment area”.

Gulf Coast Careers is an agency that provides services to job seekers as well as employers in five Houston locations. Customer services include job search workshops, unemployment benefits, job postings, career counseling, labor market information, industry and occupational information, and information on training programs and educational institutions.

The **Small Business Development Center** (SBDC) at the University of Houston College of Business Administration provides management and technical assistance to small businesses in all of Harris County.

The **Smart Jobs Fund** is a state-funded competitive grants program that provides funding to selected businesses to train their full-time employees. Since its inception in 1993, nearly \$12 million has been granted to 156 businesses for 5,732 new jobs and 3,127 existing jobs.

The **Economic Development Center** (EDC) of Texas Southern University provides economic development assistance in the Houston- Galveston area.

The **Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center** (TMAC) is an economic development organization with the goal of improving and expanding manufacturing in Texas.

The **US Small Business Administration** (SBA) provides financing programs for small businesses.

The **Community Based Organization Toolbox** published by the City of Houston Planning and Development Department, contains details and contact information on any of these programs.

Chapter 7

ENVIRONMENT

FACTS

- ◆ **Vegetation and Terrain**
- ◆ **Geology**
- ◆ **Climate and Weather**
- ◆ **Environmental Quality**

Environment

AT A GLANCE

- ◆ **Average June - August Temperature:** **82.7 Degrees Fahrenheit**

- ◆ **Average November - January
Temperature:** **54.7 Degrees Fahrenheit**

- ◆ **Mean yearly rainfall:** **47.84 Inches**

- ◆ **Mean Cloud Cover:**
 - Clear** **90 Days**
 - Partly Cloudy** **114 Days**
 - Cloudy** **161 Days**

- ◆ **Hurricanes: 12 hurricanes have affected Houston since 1900**

- ◆ **EPA Air Quality Index**
 - 0-50 = Good**
 - 51-100 = Moderate**
 - 101-150 = Unhealthful for Sensitive Groups**
 - 151-200 = Unhealthy**
 - 201-300 = Very Unhealthy**
 - 300-500 = Hazardous**
 - (See page 76 for definitions)**

Houston's vegetation, terrain, geology, and weather each play a role in creating a unique environment that affects every resident in some way.

• Vegetation and Terrain •

Houston lies in the northern part of the Gulf coastal plain, a flat 40-mile wide band along the Texas coast. Northern and eastern sections of the City are primarily forested, while the southern and far-western parts are prairie grasslands. Surface waters consist of bayous and lakes, as well as man-made canals that help manage water run-off.

The official mean altitude of Houston is 49 feet above sea level, while Harris County's elevation ranges from sea level to 310 feet above sea level. On average, the county's elevation rises about one foot per mile inland from the Gulf of Mexico. The gradient grows steeper beyond downtown Houston in a northwesterly direction.

Houston's land surface consists of unconsolidated clays, clay shales, and poorly cemented sands that extend to depths of several miles. The area's geology developed as a result of streams depositing sediment that eroded from the Rocky Mountains. These sediments consisted of sands and clays and, over time, were deposited on top of decaying animal and vegetable matter. This process eventually created the oil and gas resources that have played such a large role in Houston's economy.

Beneath these tiers is a water-deposited layer of rock salt known as halite. These porous layers were compressed over time and forced upward. As it pushed its way up, the salt dragged surrounding sediments into dome shapes often trapping oil and gas that seeped from surrounding porous sands.

• Geology •

Faulting and subsidence are natural processes but they can be triggered by man-made actions such as pumping water or oil from underlying layers of earth. Faults usually have a distinguishable break in the earth's crust. Subsidence affects broad areas and generally creates a gradual change in elevation.

A fault is a fracture in the earth's surface above which the ground has been displaced. A fault is also that surface along which underlying horizontal sediment layers are broken and offset. Although faulting may have serious effects on man-made surface structures, faults in the Houston area have also created



Houston Arboretum and Nature Center

underground pockets within which natural gas and oil have accumulated.

Houston has more than 86 mapped and historically active faults which have an aggregate length of 149 miles. Houston's active surface faults move in a slow manner termed "fault creep," which is the gradual movement of one side of a fault relative to the other. This movement causes the cracking and buckling of sidewalks or foundations without perceptible ground shaking.

The fact that so few earthquakes are felt in the area is due to the nature of Houston's geology and soils. Houston's faults are caused by the uplift of malleable salt or clay as opposed to hard rocks that are capable of producing noticeable movement. The gradual movement of these faults diminishes the probability of a significant earthquake. The earthquakes that have occurred in Houston's history were mild and localized.

Subsidence is the gradual settling or sinking of the earth's surface due to excessive withdrawal of groundwater. During the nine-year period 1979-1987, areas east of downtown Houston subsided approximately one foot, while a small area in near northwest Harris County subsided in excess of two feet. This settling exacerbates flooding in low areas.

The Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District (HGCSA) was created in 1975 to control subsidence by regulating groundwater withdrawal within the two counties. The HGCSA's 1992 Plan establishes goals for the

reduction of groundwater consumption that must be achieved in each of seven regulatory areas by given years. These goals are to be achieved through HGCSO's water well permitting process, which establishes maximum withdrawal amounts for individual wells. Through this regulatory process, substantial reductions in subsidence in the coastal areas have been achieved by significantly reducing groundwater consumption and increasing the use of surface water.

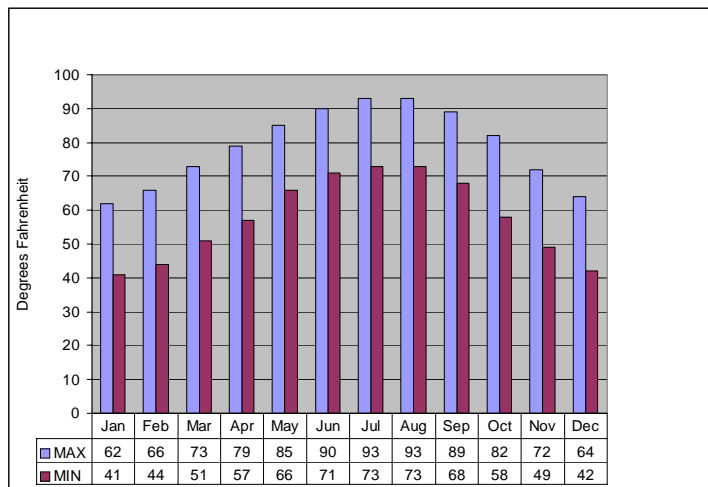
Situated on a relatively flat, low lying coastal plain, approximately 30% of the County's area is located within the 100 year flood plain and therefore considered flood prone. These flood prone areas are primarily located along the extensive bayou system within the area. However, as development increases the quantity of impervious surfaces (roads, homes etc.), the problem has grown. To minimize the adverse effects of local flooding, metropolitan Houston has three primary types of flood control strategies:

1. Flood Plain Administration – A city ordinance and county regulations control development within flood plains using Federal Standards.
2. On-Site detention of storm water – City and County regulations govern the amount of surface water run-off to be detained or retained on a site.
3. Channelized water courses and levee systems – Facilities needed to dam and channel flood waters are determined by Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD). The City currently has 6,000 miles of water channels.

● Climate and Weather ●

Houston's climate, classified as subtropical with marine influences, is similar to that of New Orleans, as well as Hong Kong and the eastern Indian coast. Houston's weather is characterized by large amounts of rainfall,

Figure 7-1: Monthly Mean Maximum and Minimum Temperatures From 1971- 2000



thunderstorms that move in from the Gulf of Mexico and moderate temperatures year-round (7-1).

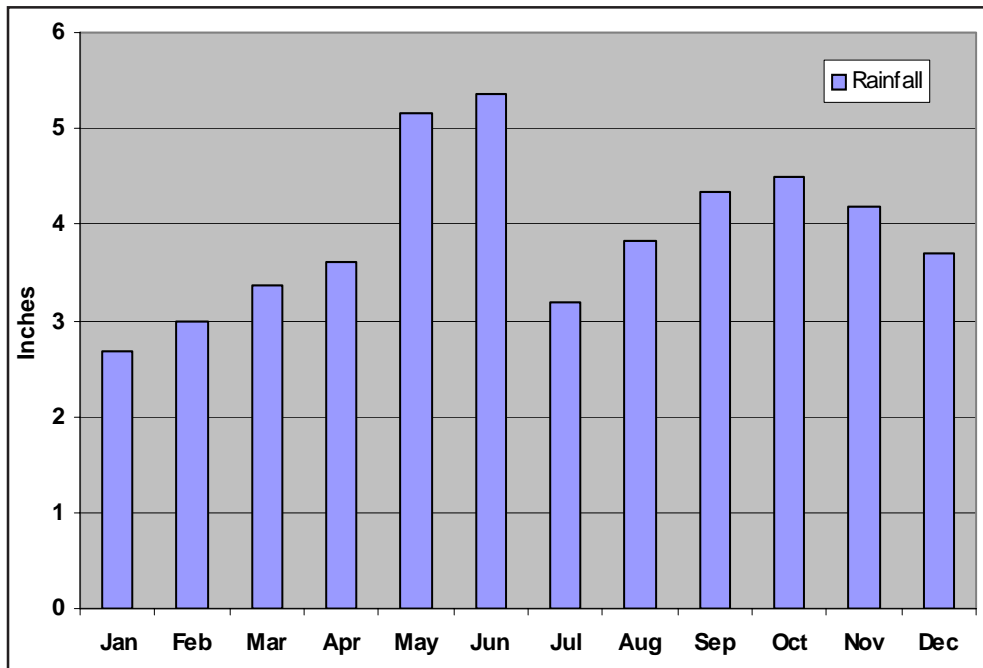
Temperatures are moderated by the influence of winds from the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in mild winter temperatures averaging 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Arctic cold fronts called Blue Northers enter the region frequently enough to create variability in the weather. The proximity of the Gulf and the effect of moderate temperatures also result in the region's abundant rainfall and lack of extended periods of dry weather during the summers, which average 82 degrees Fahrenheit (Figure 7-2).

Combined, clear and partly cloudy days outnumber cloudy days and it is the sunniest between October and December. (Figure 7-2). The average humidity over the course of a year is 75%, which is similar to other cities along the Gulf Coast. Houston normally receives approximately 45 inches of rain spread fairly evenly throughout each year (Figure 7-3).

Figure 7-2: Weather 1971 - 2000

Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)	Yearly Mean	Period
Normals: Summer (Jun-Aug)	82.7	1971-2000
Winter (Nov-Jan)	53.7	1971-2000
Extremes: Record High	109	Sept. 9, 2000
Record Low:	7	Jan. 30, 1940
Mean Sky Cover (Days)		
Clear	90	
Partly Cloudy	114	
Cloudy	161	
Relative Humidity (Percent)		
Morning	90	
Afternoon	64	
Precipitation (Inches)		
Normal	47.84	1971-2000
Maximum (monthly)	19.21	June, 2001
Minimum (monthly)	0.04	May, 1998
Wind (MPH)		
Mean Speed	7.7	

Source: Office of the Texas State Climatologist

Figure 7-3: Monthly Mean Rainfall From 1971-2000

Source: Office of the Texas State Climatologist

Houston's hurricane season, as is true of all of North America, is June 1 to November 30. Within the Harris-Galveston County region, only land along the coast and bays is vulnerable to the flooding associated with a storm surge, the most devastating part of a

hurricane. Since 1900, 12 hurricanes have affected Houston with localized flooding and wind damage (Figure 7-4). Only Alicia in 1983 caused any serious damage in Houston proper. Preparing for these occurrences is the responsibility of the city's Office of Emergency Management, which oversees the local

Figure 7-4: Hurricanes Since 1900

Hurricane	Date	Location	Deaths	Wind(MPH)
Not Named	9/8/1900	Galveston	6000+	125 - 135
Not Named	8/17/1915	Freeport	275	120 - 135
Not Named	8/13/1932	Freeport	40	100 - 135
Not Named	9/23/1941	Freeport	4	90
Not Named	7/27/1943	Port Bolivar	19	110
Not Named	8/24/1947	Galveston	1	80
Not Named	10/3/1949	Freeport	2	135
Debra	7/25/1959	Galveston	0	80
Carla	9/11/1961	Port O'Connor	34	150
Alicia	8/18/1983	Galveston	21	82
Chantal	8/8/1989	Galveston	13	82
Jerry	10/15/1989	Galveston	3	85

Sources: Evacuation and Contingency Zones: Galveston Bay Area; "Texas Storms" National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Research Center

• Environmental Quality •

evacuation and coordinates other important emergency response plans such as that of Reliant Energy HL&P. One way in which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) measures air quality is with a Pollutant

Standards Index (PSI) which is reported daily in the local news media for areas with populations over 200,000. Houston's PSI is reported as a value between 0 and 500, which corresponds to five health descriptors ranging from "Good" to "Hazardous". Figure 7-5 shows air quality index system used to measure

Figure 7-5: Air Quality Index

Index Value	Descriptor	Color	1 Hr. Ozone ppb
0-50	Good	Green	
51-100	Moderate	Yellow	
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange	125-164
151-200	Unhealthy	Red	165-204
201-300	Very Unhealthy	Purple	205-404
300-500	Hazardous	Maroon	405-604

Good = No health effects

Moderate = Few or no health effects

Unhealthful = Irritation symptoms begin and very high levels cause aggravation of symptoms

Very Unhealthful = Significant aggravation of symptoms

Hazardous = Early onset of certain diseases in addition to significant aggravation of symptoms

Source: EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Statistics and Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Monitoring Operations Division

ozone levels of air pollution. In the Houston area, the system is used exclusively for one hour ozone levels.

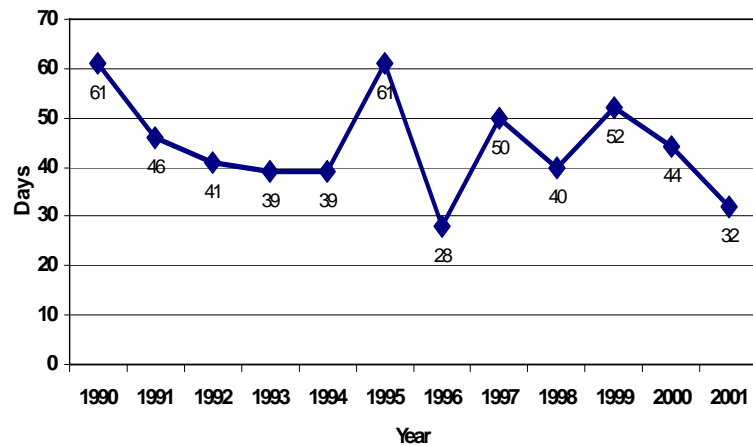
Ozone is an air pollutant that is not directly emitted, but formed by the combination of several emissions pollutants; primarily nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Moderate to high concentrations of these pollutants in conjunction with high solar radiation, low wind speeds, and elevated temperatures increase the likelihood of forming ozone. The EPA standard for ozone levels is 0.12 parts per million (ppm). To meet the standard, the one-hour average concentration of ozone cannot be exceeded at any one monitoring station on more than 3 days over a 3 year period. The fewest exceedence days for Houston this decade occurred in 1996. Between 1999 and 2001, exceedence has decreased from 52 to 32 days (Figure 7-6).

There are 23 stations that monitor ozone in the Houston area. Assuming ozone levels were fairly consistent throughout the region, the maximum would be 23 exceedence days each year, or 69 in a three-year period. In 1996 there were only 38 exceedence days. However, over the three-year period between 1996-1998, there were 118 days.

Another measurement of ozone concentration is the maximum one hour ozone concentration standard set by the EPA. Overall, like the number of exceedence days, this measurement has shown decreasing tendencies between 1989 and 2001 except for spikes probably caused at least in part by higher temperatures in 1995 and 1999 (Figure 7-7).

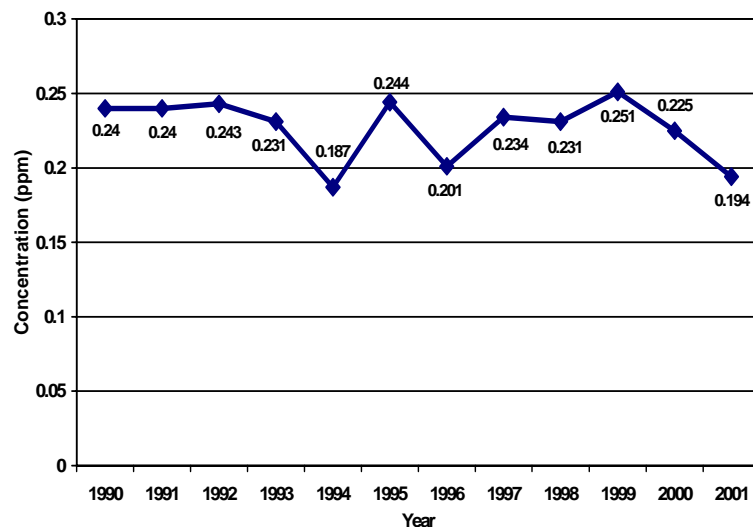
Houston is certainly not alone in its ozone problems. In recognition of the problem, many different agencies such as the City of Houston, Metro and the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), a regional planning agency, are collaborating to meet this challenge.

Figure 7.6: Number of Days When at Least One Monitor Exceeded the 1-Hour Ozone Standard



Source: *Air Quality Reference Guide For the Houston-Galveston Area 2002*

Figure 7.7: Maximum One Hour Ozone Concentrations



Source: *Air Quality Reference Guide for the Houston-Galveston Area 2002*

Other local initiatives include:

- **Regional Air Quality Planning Committee** advises H-GAC board of directors and Transportation Policy Council on issues relating to Air Quality.
- **Houston Air Excellence and Leadership (HAXL)** focuses on health benefits to be gained from increased local air quality.
- **The Houston / Galveston Clean Air Project** allows businesses or areas with significant pollution to bypass existing laws by suggesting innovative new ways to reduce pollution.

- **The Clean Air Action Program** educates the public and encourages voluntary reduction of emissions.

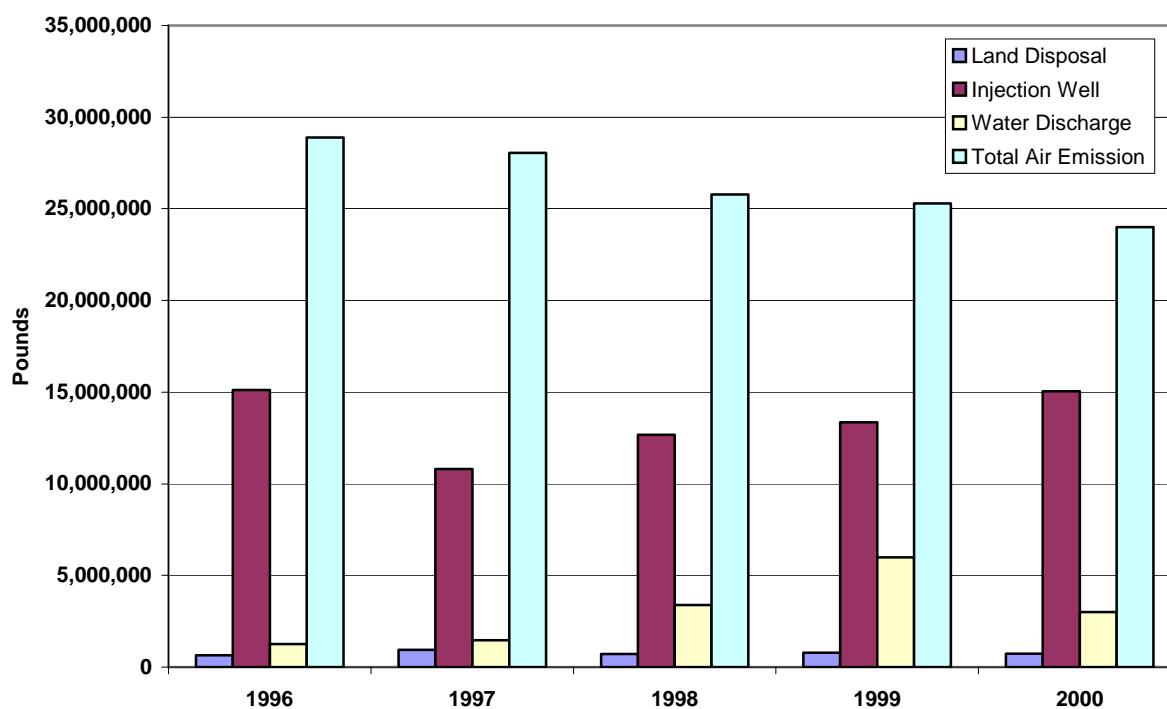
Other issues that play a role in environmental quality are toxic chemical releases and hazardous waste. The EPA tracks the amount of toxic chemicals released into the environment in five categories. The combined trend for all types of releases has been one of decline since 1996 and 2000 (Figure 7-9).

Hazardous waste is any waste that is considered ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or if it contains certain amounts of toxic chemicals. In 1980 federal legislation known as Superfund was enacted to clean up hazardous waste sites. Since its inception, 198 sites in Houston have been cleaned up. There are currently 29 sites with Superfund status.

The state of Texas also plays a role in regulating and cleaning up hazardous waste sites. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission regulates hazardous waste sites that do not qualify for federal Superfund status but are still

considered to represent a threat to public health, safety, or the environment. Seven sites were identified in 1980. Since that time three sites have been deleted from the state's registry through clean-up.

Figure 7-8: Harris County Toxic Release Inventory (Pounds), 2000



Source: Harris County

Chapter 8

INFRASTRUCTURE

FACTS

- ♦ **Roadway Transportation**
- ♦ **Mass Transit**
- ♦ **Other Transportation Services**
- ♦ **Transportation Planning**
- ♦ **Air Transportation**
- ♦ **Rail Transportation**
- ♦ **Port of Houston**
- ♦ **Public Utilities**
- ♦ **Private Utilities**

Infrastructure

AT A GLANCE

- ◆ **Total lane miles for all roads: 33,933**
- ◆ **Total Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled: 86.8 million**

- ◆ **During rush hour HOV lanes average speed is twice that of regular lanes**

- ◆ **A seven and one-half mile light rail line is under construction for the Main Street corridor**

- ◆ **Fourth largest multi-airport system**
Service to 150 domestic and international destinations

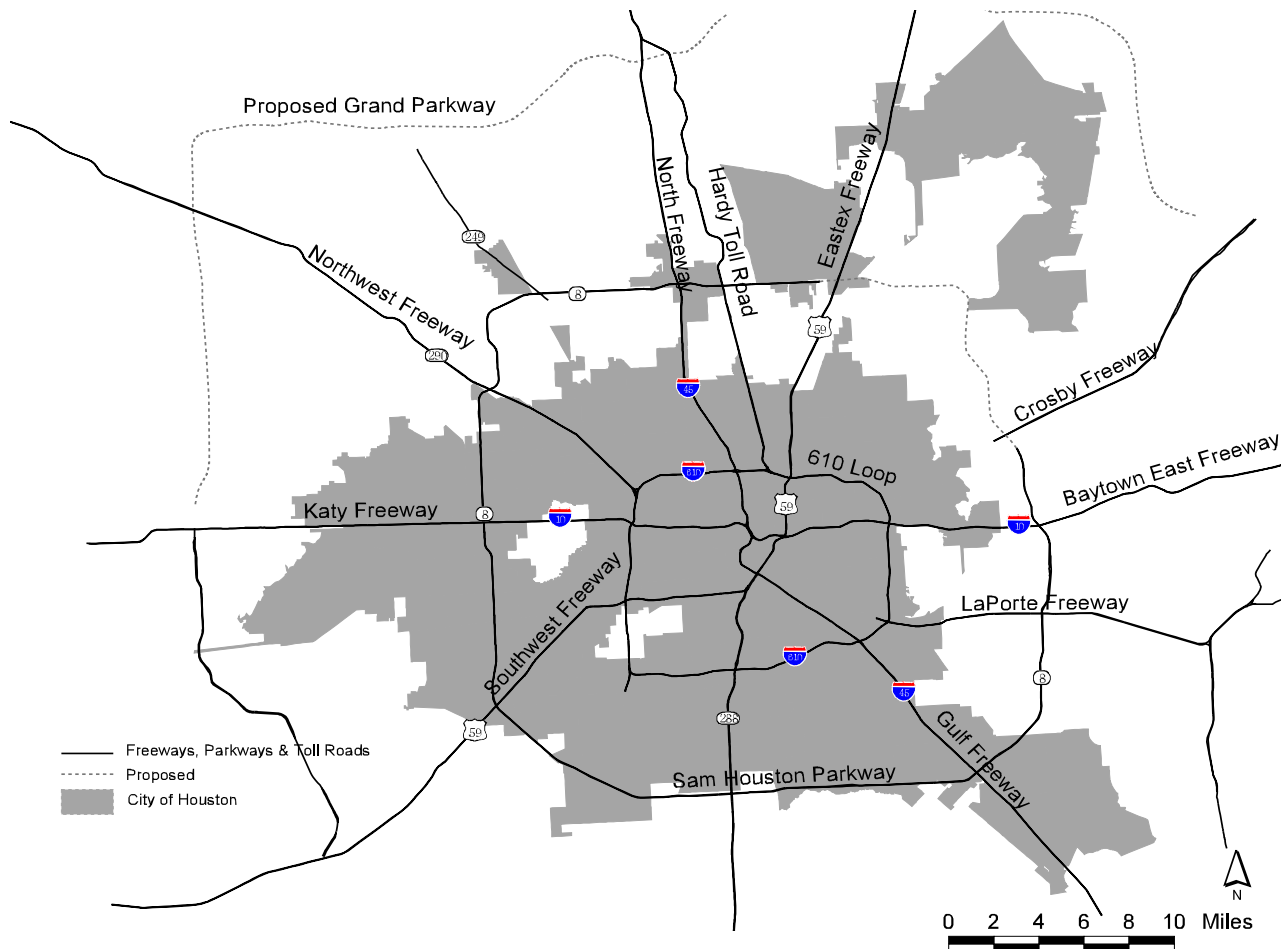
- ◆ **Port of Houston is ranked:**
First in the US foreign tonnage,
Second in US total tonnage and,
Sixth largest port in the world.

The quality of life, community health, and economic well being of a city depend upon the adequacy and quality of its infrastructure. Infrastructure includes transportation systems such as roads and airports and utilities such as electricity and water.

• Roadway Transportation •

Houston and Harris County serve as the hub of the region's roadway system. The Katy Freeway (IH-10) and the Gulf Freeway (IH-45) intersect near downtown at the center of Houston. Other highways including the Eastex Freeway (US-59), the Northwest Freeway (US-290), US-90A, the South Freeway (SH-288), the La Porte/Pasadena Freeway (SH-225) and SH-249 form a radial network of roads serving the city and metropolitan Houston. Loop 610 and the Sam Houston Tollway are circumferential highways that provide connections between the radial routes (Figure 8-1). The proposed 172 mile Grand Parkway, which will encircle the city at a radius of 25 to 30 miles from the city center, is partially constructed on the west from I-10 to US 59 south.

Figure 8-1: Major Roads



Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

Figure 8-2: Houston Street Network Miles by Functional Classification System 2003

Class	Length/ Miles	Lane Miles
Principal Arterial	612	1,838
Major Collector	409	1,253
Local	5,173	12,554
TOTAL	6,194	15,645

Source: Public Works and Engineering/
Pavement Maintenance Management

The City of Houston has almost 6,200 miles of road network in the three major categories (arterial, collector and Local). Total lane miles for all roads amounted to 15,645 miles (Figure 8-2). City lane miles are based on a ten feet wide paved roadway.

As of 2002, a total of 2.8 million vehicles were registered in Harris County, a figure that has consistently increased since 1998. However, heavy truck registrations have continued to decline since between 1998 and 2002 (Figure 8-3).

Figure 8-3: Vehicle Registrations (thousands)

Type of Vehicle	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Passenger Car/Light Trucks	1,006.3	2,604.6	2,615.8	2,741.3	2,780.2
Heavy Trucks	376.7	313.1	255.8	25.1	22.1
Other	1,165.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Totals	2,548.4	2,917.7	2,871.6	2,766.4	2,802.3

Source: Harris County

• Mass Transit •

Mass transit in Houston is operated by the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) which began operations in 1979. Presently, the METRO service area covers 1,285 square miles extending over most of Harris County and parts of Montgomery and Fort Bend Counties.

Bus Service: A system of local, commuter, and express bus routes, serving the city of Houston, its suburbs and neighboring areas, is the backbone of the Houston mass transit system. METRO's fleet in 2002 included 1,328 buses. During weekday peak periods the bus system serves 130 routes. In FY 2002, METRO buses had over 93 million passenger boardings. In FY 1997 and 1998 combined, METRO's bus ridership increased 18.3 percent and has continued to increase in 2001.

As of 1998, the bus service in Houston also includes the downtown METRO Trolley service. Reminiscent in their visual appearance of the coaches that carried people around the business district earlier this century, the trolleys provide free mass transit within the Downtown area along four routes to most Downtown destinations.

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes: An HOV lane is a barrier protected lane, usually in the median of a freeway, for

high occupancy vehicles including buses, vanpools and carpools.

Houston's HOV lanes carry about 80,000 people each day, serving 35,000 vehicles that would otherwise travel on the freeway main lanes. During rush hours, five HOV lanes carry the same volume of passengers as 19 freeway main lanes, and while traffic on main freeway lanes averages 24 miles per hour, traffic speed on HOV lanes averages 50-55 miles per hour saving anywhere from 12 to 22 minutes per trip.

Presently 111.2 miles of HOV lanes operate in six freeway corridors, including southwest (US 59), Gulf (I-45), Katy (I-10), North (I-45) and Northwest (US 290), and Eastex (US 59) freeways. Another 4.7 miles of HOV lanes on area freeways is under construction and another 7.4 miles in design.

Park and Ride: METRO operates express buses serving Houston's CBD, Greenway Plaza, the Galleria and the Texas Medical

Center from 25 Park and Ride lots. Park & Ride facilities also serve as staging areas for carpools and vanpools.

Transit Centers: In Houston's mass transit system, transit centers serve as hubs where bus routes converge allowing bus riders additional transfer options. Presently, there are 15 transit centers throughout METRO's service area.

Transit Streets: Selected streets have been targeted for improvement and reconstruction under METRO's Downtown/Midtown Transit Streets Project. This multi-year, \$250 million program aims to rebuild 20 downtown/midtown streets to better withstand bus traffic.

Ride Share: Ride Share is a free program, which matches commuters who live and work near each other to form vanpools and carpools, which can then use the network of HOV lanes to bypass congestion.

Commuter Services RideSponsor Program: RideSponsor is a METRO discount program for area companies and employers who can receive a discount on fares when they purchase bus passes for 25 or more employees.

Guaranteed RideHome: The Guaranteed RideHome program assures qualified METRO commuters an immediate ride home in the event of an emergency during the workday if there is no bus service available on their route. METRO arranges the transportation, usually a taxi, free of cost to the commuter.

METROLift: METROLift is the METRO provided service for people with mobility impairments. This service consists of prescheduled, curb to curb transportation for work, shopping, recreation, medical appointments, and other purposes within a 570 square mile area.

• Other Transportation Services •

Taxicab Service: As December 2002, Houston has 128 taxi cab companies with a combined total of 2,245 taxicabs.

Private Bus Companies: In addition to the nationally prominent Greyhound Bus Lines, there are about 257 private bus companies providing passenger bus service within and outside of Texas. Nine of these companies provide service to Mexico.

Motor Freight: About 650 trucking companies provide motor freight services in Houston. These include transport such as heavy equipment haulers, tank truck lines, and household carriers.

• Transportation Planning •

Transportation Planning in Houston is a continuous, comprehensive and cooperative planning process accomplished through the involvement of many agencies including the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Harris County Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO), the City of Houston, and the users of the transportation system.

One major planning effort currently on the way to becoming reality is a seven-and-one-half mile light rail corridor running from Downtown to the Astrodome. This \$272 million effort will be completed by 2004.

In addition, the City of Houston Bikeway Program provides for the design of a city-wide network of bicycle routes to be integrated into an overall transportation network. The bikeway

network has been divided into several projects. One of these projects, the White Oak Bayou trail, is currently under construction.

2022 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the region's current transportation plan, was adopted in 2000. This plan outlines strategies for improving mobility, preserving existing infrastructure, enhancing safety, and addressing related needs such as supporting goods movement as well as improving air quality in the eight-county Houston-Galveston metropolitan area to the year 2020. By that year, 5.6 million people are expected to reside in the region with 160 million miles of vehicle

travel occurring annually.

2022 MTP adopts a multi-modal approach in responding to the travel needs in the region, addressing mobility modes as diverse as cars, trucks, buses, bicycles and even walking. The plan initiatives include:

- 25,785 centerlane miles of freeways
- 71 miles of HOV lanes (113 planned)
- 133 transit routes served by 1,402 buses
- 29 commuter transit routes
- 24 Park and Ride lots serving 26,287 vehicles
- 3 commercial airports serving 40 million passengers
- 4 ports handling 250 million tons of cargo

• Air Transportation •

Houston is linked to other cities throughout the United States and the world through its three major airports: Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston (IAH), William P. Hobby Airport, and Ellington Field. Collectively, these facilities form the fourth largest aviation multi-airport system in North America, positioning Houston as a domestic hub and international gateway for the south-central United States. All three airports handle domestic, military and general aviation including air charter services. IAH also provides international service.

Facility Description: Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), the city's dominant air carrier facility, is classified as a primary domestic and international hub airport by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). It is the 9th busiest airport in the nation and the 9th largest international gateway in the United States. IAH contains four terminals, including one international terminal building. IAH also serves as one of Continental Airlines' hub airports.

William P. Hobby Airport (Hobby) is the 41st busiest airport in the nation. It serves as one of the key airports in Southwest Airlines' route system and is the designated point of entry for international general aviation traffic.

Ellington Field serves a diverse client base, including the United States Government, the military, and private sector while serving as a reliever airport for Hobby.

Flight Activity: Flight activity within the Houston airport system has grown steadily over the past years. Since 1998, aircraft operations at IAH increased 4.8 percent annually,

From 1999-2022, the total projected cost of the region's transportation system is about \$43 billion. An update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to the year 2025 is currently under preparation with major projects intended to adequately address the transportation needs of the eight-county planning region while maintaining conformance with the Federal Clean Air Act requirements.

however, between 2001 and 2002, operations decreased by 3 percent partially due to the September 11, disaster.

In 2002, there were 805,077 total aircraft landings and takeoffs from Houston's three major airports. (Figure 8-4).

Passenger Service: Collectively, the Houston Airport System offers direct passenger service to more than 150 domestic and international markets. A total of over 42 million passengers traveled through the Houston Airport System (Figure 8.5). This figure indicates a decrease of 3.2% compared to 2001.

Fifteen air carriers provided scheduled international passenger service at Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) as of January 2002. These carriers include: Air France, Aeromexico, Aviacsa, British Airways, Air Canada, Canadian Airlines, Cayman, Continental, KLM Royal Dutch, and Lufthansa. These carriers provide direct flights to Asia, Africa, Europe, Central and South America, and Mexico. Charter flights to Mexico are also available. New services with nonstop flights to Tokyo, Japan and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Sixteen carriers provide domestic passenger service from Houston's three

airports. These carriers include: America West, American, American Eagle, Air Tran, Continental, US Airways, Delta, Northwest, United, Continental Express, TWA, Atlantic Southeast, Sun Country, Southwest, Comair and Delta Express. Thirteen domestic airlines operate out of Hobby Airport, and Continental Express offers a passenger commuter (shuttle) service from Ellington Field to IAH.

Air Freight Services: Houston provides a convenient location for cargo operations due to its air links to global markets and the availability of an intermodal transportation network that links Houston to Canada and all of the United States.

Domestic and international air cargo services operate from IAH and Ellington Field. IAH is the primary facility for air cargo operations in the Houston Airport System, and a major air cargo distribution hub. A dozen cargo carriers offer both international and domestic cargo service at IAH. One cargo

Figure 8-4: Number of Flights by Airport , 2002

Type of Aircraft	IAH	Hobby	Ellington	Total
Military	121	367	26,214	26,702
Air Taxi	159,946	42,480	6,308	208,734
General	18,094	92,192	65,981	176,267
Air Carrier	278,670	111,191	3,513	393,374
Total	456,831	246,230	102,016	805,077



carrier services Ellington Field, which is a major operations center for United Parcel Service.

General and Corporate Aviation The majority of the general aviation activity within the Houston Airport System operates from Hobby. Hobby Airport accommodates six fixed-base operators and many corporate hangars.

Figure 8-5: Passengers by Airport, 2002

Type of Aircraft	IAH	Hobby	Ellington	Total
Domestic	28,239,920	8,035,727	76,035	36,351,682
International	5,664,927	NA	NA	5,664,927
All Flights	34,803	8,035,727	76,035	42,016,609

• Rail Transportation •

Figure 8-6: Rail Lines



Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

The railroad system in Houston makes the city highly accessible to the rest of the country. Direct rail service is available to most major cities west of the Mississippi River. Eastern cities can be reached through connections to other carriers in Kansas City, St. Louis, Memphis, New Orleans and Chicago. The railroad system in Houston provides both freight and passenger service.

Freight Service: On an average, 700,000 freight cars originate or terminate in Houston bringing in and carrying out over 30,000,000 tons of cargo every year. A number of products arrive and are sent out of Houston via the railroad and exported to the rest of the world via the Port of Houston Terminal.

Two major rail systems operate mainline tracks radiating out from the city with linkages

to company controlled tracks in the midwest and western US (Figure 8-6). These rail systems include: Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad, and Union Pacific Railroad. In addition, Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad Company, and Port Terminal Rail Association provide switching lines. Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad Company controls operations on one of the routes between Houston and Galveston. Port Terminal Rail Association runs lines on the north and south sides of the Houston Ship Channel servicing the facilities at the Port of Houston.

Light Rail: The Harris County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) is currently constructing a 7.5 miles light rail line from Houston Downtown to Reliant Park. This rail line is expected to be in operation by early 2004. Metro is currently considering a plan to extend rail to other parts of the

city. Houston voters will decide the fate of the Draft Metro 2025 Solutions Plan at the November 2003 referendum.

Passenger Rail Service: AMTRAK provides passenger rail service to and from the city from the station located at 902 Washington Avenue. The company runs triweekly service along the Miami-Los Angeles corridor in both directions. AMTRAK also provides a bus service to Longview and Dallas to connect with trains running from San Antonio to Chicago.

• Port of Houston •

The Port of Houston is a 25 mile long complex of diversified public and private facilities on the Houston Ship Channel, a 50 mile long inland waterway that connects the city of Houston to the Gulf of Mexico. Most of the Channel has a mean depth at low tide of about 40 feet minimum and a width of 400 feet. Existing plans call for deepening the channel from 40 to 45 feet and widening it from 400 to 520 feet.

The Port of Houston first opened to deepwater vessels in 1914, and has since contributed to Houston's development as a center of international trade. Presently, more than 100 steamship lines offer service between Houston and 200 ports around the world. The Port ranks first in the United States in foreign waterborne commerce and second in total tonnage. The movement of an estimated 194 million tons of cargo ranks the Port of Houston as the second largest US port in terms of tonnage, and sixth in the world. It is also home to over \$15 million petrochemical complex, which is the largest in the United States and second largest in the world.

The Port of Houston Authority owns and operates the public facilities along the Houston Ship Channel. Public facilities on the channel are located at Barbours Cut Container Terminal, Turning Basin Terminal, Woodhouse Terminal, Jacintoport Terminal, Care Terminal, Bulk Material Handling Plant and Bayport Terminal. These facilities include 43 general cargo wharves available for public hire, two liquid cargo-wharves, warehouses, loading/unloading facilities, and rail and trucking access. Two major railroads and more than 150 trucking lines connect the port to the continental United States, Canada and



Mexico. These facilities have attracted many companies that have invested more than \$17 million in manufacturing and processing facilities along the Houston Ship Channel.

In November 1999 voters approved \$387 million in bonds for port improvements which include a new container terminal and a cruise ship terminal. In 2001 and 2002 a total of \$140 million of these bonds were sold and an additional \$17.3 million were sold as part of the 1989 Houston Ship Channel Authorization of \$130 million

The Port of Houston also includes a multi-site Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) in which domestic and foreign merchandise is generally considered to be outside US Customs Territory, offering users special advantages.

• Public Utilities •

Houston's public water supply and wastewater systems are the responsibility of the Public Utilities Division of the City of Houston Department of Public Works and Engineering. The Division provides drinking water to homes and businesses, and collects and treats wastewater throughout the city for safe return to the local streams.

Water Supply: Houston has one of the most complex water systems in the country drawing its drinking water supply from both surface and groundwater sources. Prior to Lake Houston becoming available as a water supply source in 1954, Houston was the largest city in the nation relying exclusively on groundwater for its public water supply. In the succeeding years the City has made efforts to gradually reduce dependence on groundwater to address the problem of land subsidence related to withdrawal of groundwater. By 1998, 65 percent of Houston's treated drinking water supply came from surface water sources. The remaining 35 percent came from groundwater sources. In the next 25 years, less than 20 percent is expected to come from groundwater sources.

Ground Water: The City of Houston operates 112 groundwater treatment plants and 201 of the 3000 permitted water wells in Harris County, pumping water from the Evangeline and Chicot Aquifers. As part of its efforts to reduce dependence on groundwater supply for drinking water, the City envisions reducing the number of operating plants to 13 beyond the year 2000. All of these plants will be operated as dual-purpose plants that will distribute surface water as well as pump and treat groundwater.

Surface Water: Houston's surface water supply comes from the San Jacinto River through Lakes Conroe and Houston, and the Trinity River through Lake Livingston. The City has four surface water treatment plants which produced an average of 437 million gallons per day (MGD) in 2000.

Wastewater Treatment and Storm Water Drainage: Houston has 40 operating wastewater plants with a total capacity of 563 million gallons per day. The city has three sludge plants and 380 lift stations. Wastewater is conveyed to treatment plants through a citywide network of pipes consisting of 6,200 miles of pipelines.

Each household in the City generates about 315 gallons of wastewater per day. On average, the City of Houston treated 255 million gallons of wastewater per day in 2000. The average combined water and sewer bill in Houston is \$38.00 to \$42.00 per month with monthly average usage of 371 mega gallons of fresh water per day.

Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs): In response to the inability of cities across Texas to provide adequate municipal utility services, the Texas Legislature created a vehicle called the municipal utility district (MUD) in 1971 to fill the utility service gap. MUDs are governed by Chapter 54 of the *Texas Water Code* and can be established to provide water, sewer, and drainage service to any district or subdivision. However, no land within a city's municipal limits or its extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) can be included in a municipal utility district without the governing City's consent. There are about 3,136 active water utilities and 727 active sewer utilities in Harris County plus two districts created within Houston's ETJ.

• Private Utilities •

Private utilities include electricity, telephone and natural gas services that are provided by private companies. These services are regarded as public goods and because of their monopoly status, municipal governments regulate charges for these services. Today, however, new laws have deregulated utilities in order to provide choices in pricing and service to the consumer.

Electric and Gas Services: Until the recent government bill deregulating utilities, a bulk of the electric and gas power service in the Houston area was provided by Reliant Energy HL&P, and its subsidiary Entex now called CenterPoint Energy. Now you can shop for your energy services using a wide range of pricing options offered by wider range of utility companies.

Some of the major utility providers in the Houston area include TXU Energy, First Choice Power, Energy solutions. Green Mountain Energy, Shell Energy and New Power Company, Reliant Energy and CenterPoint Energy. In spite of deregulation, the bulk of electric and gas service in the Houston area is still provided by Reliant and CenterPoint Energy companies.

Telephone Services: Telephone service in Houston is predominantly provided by Southwestern Bell. By 2000 Southwestern Bell was providing services for approximately 88 percent of the telephone lines in metropolitan Houston. However, with the advent of deregulation or telecommunications act by congress their market share has since reduced. In addition, there are more than 30 other telecommunications companies that provide independent telephone services.

The majority of telephone lines used in Houston are constructed with fibre optic. Houston's hi-tech telecommunications network is digital based; Southwestern Bell operates over 479,693 working digital lines, and offers ADSL, a high speed Internet access service, to most of its customers. There are three local area codes in Houston including 832, 713, and 281. Local calls require all ten digits (the area code and the number) to be dialed for call completion. With the advent of the ten digit dialing, assignments of area codes is no longer geographically restricted, and all three area codes are assigned throughout Houston.

Natural Gas: Natural gas service in Houston is provided by CenterPoint Energy, a subsidiary of Reliant Energy Inc.

Chapter 9

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FACTS

- ◆ City Government Structure
- ◆ City Finances
- ◆ City Workforce
- ◆ Citizen Participation
- ◆ Super Neighborhoods
- ◆ Harris County Government

Government

AT A GLANCE

- ♦ Incorporated in 1837
- ♦ Elected Government consists of 14 Council Members, the Mayor, and the Controller
- ♦ 9 Council Members represent districts
- ♦ 5 Council Members, Mayor, and Controller are elected at large
- ♦ Budget
 - ♦ 1998 \$2.1 Billion
 - ♦ 1999 \$2.2 Billion
 - ♦ 2000 \$2.3 Billion
 - ♦ 2001 \$2.5 Billion
 - ♦ 2002 \$2.6 Billion
- ♦ Total Annual Property Tax on \$100,000 home in City of Houston:
 - Harris County \$2,962
 - Fort Bend County \$2,615
 - Montgomery County \$4,154



The center of the [City] seal bears "The Lone Star, symbol of the newborn nation of the west.....the 'Noble locomotive', heralding Houston's spirit of progress; the humble plow, symbol of the agricultural empire of Texas, from which Houston would draw her wealth - by iron rails."

Citizen's Assistance Office

Houston ranks as the nation's fourth largest City. As the City's physical size and population have grown, so has the size and responsibilities of City government.



City Hall

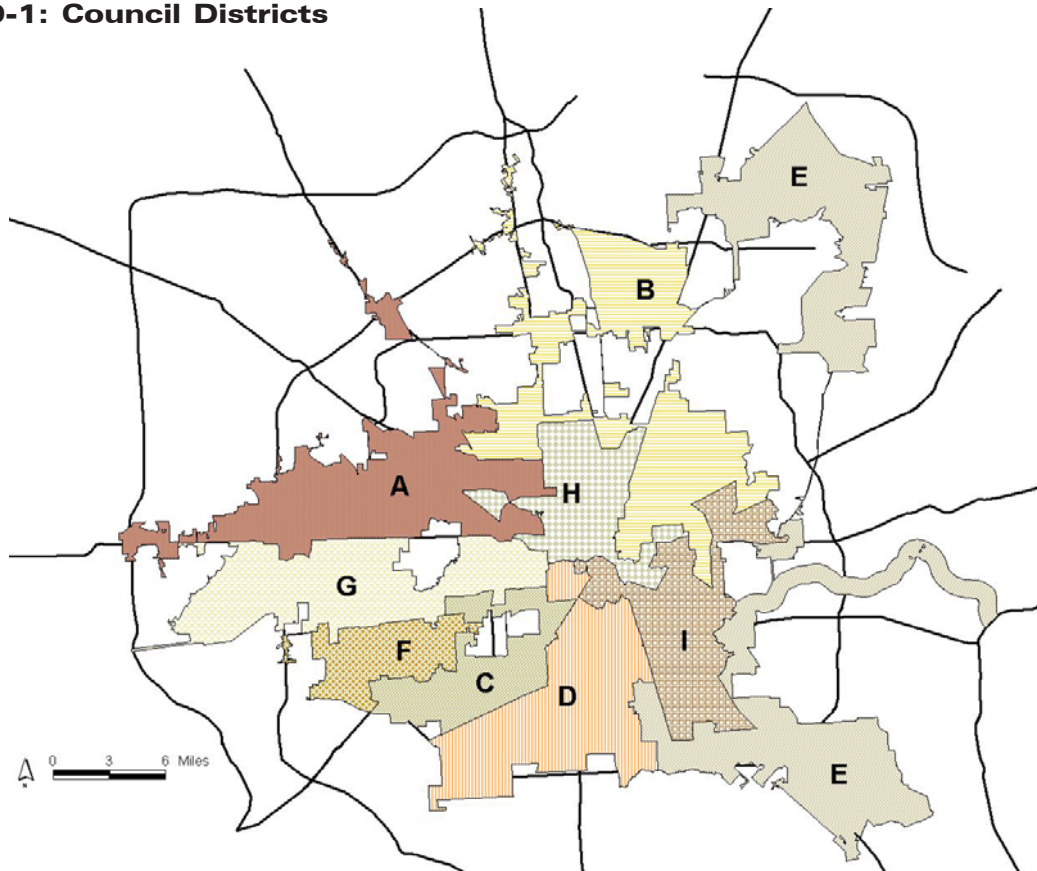
• City Government Structure •

The City of Houston was incorporated in 1837 and the current Council-based form of government was adopted in 1943. There are nine council districts and five at-large seats. Although the ward system ended in 1905, First through Fifth Wards are still used to designate communities within the older sections of the city.

Of the 14 elected Council members, 9 represent specific geographic areas or “districts” (Figure 9-1). The remaining

five Council members, the Mayor, and the Controller are elected on a City-wide basis or “at-large”. All elective offices in the City are for two-year terms. First enacted in 1993, term limits of three, two-year terms are now in effect. Figure 9-2 lists the names, electoral jurisdictions, and incumbency status for elected city officials serving 2001-2003.

Figure 9-1: Council Districts



Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

Figure 9-2: Elected City Officials (2001-2003)



Mayor Lee P. Brown

Name	Position/Office	Term	Electoral Jurisdiction
Lee P. Brown	Mayor	3rd	City-wide
Judy Gray Johnson	Controller	3rd	City-wide
Bruce Tatro	Council Member	3rd	District A
Carol Mims Galloway	Council Member	2nd	District B
Mark Goldberg	Council Member	2nd	District C
Ada Edwards	Council Member	1st	District D
Addie Wiseman	Council Member	1st	District E
Mark Ellis	Council Member	2nd	District F
Bert Keller	Council Member	3rd	District G
Gabriel Vasquez	Council Member	2nd	District H
Carol Alvarado	Council Member	1st	District I
Annise D. Parker	Council Member	3rd	At-Large (Position 1)
Gordon Quan	Council Member	2nd	At-Large (Position 2)
Shelley Sekula-Gibbs	Council Member	1st	At-Large (Position 3)
Michael Berry	Council Member	1st	At-Large (Position 4)
Carroll G. Robinson	Council Member	3rd	At-Large (Position 5)

Term: Designates 1st, 2nd, or 3rd term in office

The Mayor, City Council, and City Controller conduct the affairs of the City. The Mayor and the 14-member Council serve as the elected governing body, while the elected City Controller serves as the City's fiscal manager. Figure 9-3 represents the City government's organizational structure.

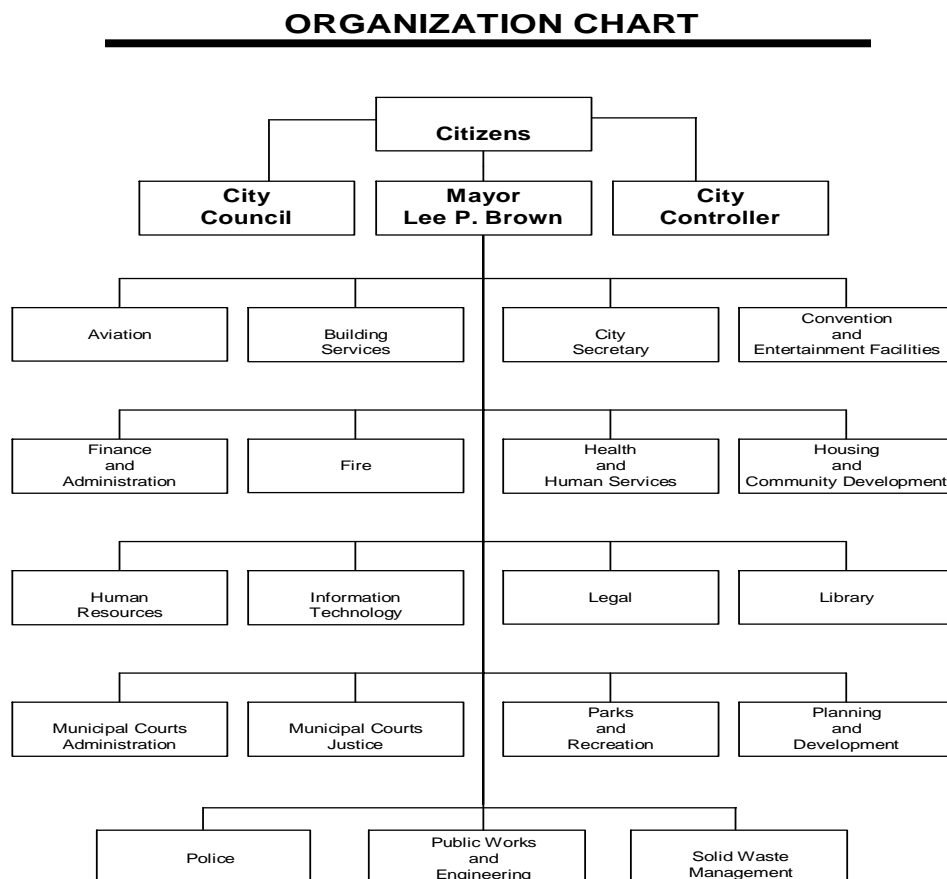
The City Charter gives the people of Houston the power of direct legislation in the form of initiative and referendum. The charter further grants the Council authority to submit any proposed ordinance, resolution, or measure to the people of Houston for adoption, rejection, or repeal. The outcome of such a referendum cannot be voided, repealed, or amended except by popular vote.

The City Council is vested with legislative powers to conduct the affairs of the City subject to the terms of the City Charter and

the Constitution of the State of Texas. The Council has the power to make laws or repeal them, to establish any office it deems relevant or expedient to the smooth conduct of City governance, and to define the scope and duties of such office. City Council meetings are conducted each week on Tuesday at 1:30 P.M. and Wednesday beginning at 8:00 A.M. Any citizen may speak before Council on a Tuesday beginning at 2:00 P.M. All Council meetings are open to the public.

The Mayor is the chief executive officer of the City. The Mayor also presides at Council meetings, establishes the Council agenda, and appoints the heads of City departments. As the chief executive officer of the City, the Mayor also prepares and submits the Annual City Budget to the Council for approval and adoption.

Figure 9-3: City of Houston Organizational Chart



Special Divisions within the mayor's office include

- **Affirmative Action and Contract Compliance Division** – responsible for ensuring equality of opportunity for City of Houston employees, job applicants, contractors, and minority – and women – owned businesses.
- **Citizen's Assistance Office** – provides nine Citizen's Assistance satellite offices in the community to address citizen's questions and concerns.
- **Office for Public Safety and Drug Policy** – charged with developing the City of Houston's public policy to enhance the quality of life of all Houstonians. It does this by implementing prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies to stop gang violence, assisting crime victims, and coordinating and supporting community volunteer projects in alcohol and drug abuse.
- **One Stop Business Center** – an information and referral service for persons wishing to open, expand, or relocate a business in metropolitan Houston.
- **People With Disabilities Office** – acts as a public advocate for the rights and needs of people with disabilities and issues affecting them.

The Controller is the second highest elected official in the city. As chief financial officer, the controller supervises, manages, and co-signs with the Mayor all warrants, contracts or orders for payment. The Controller watches over the fiscal affairs of the City, maintains the accounts of the City, and prepares annual financial statements.

City Departments include:

Aviation – oversees operation of Houston's Airport System.

Building Services - oversees the maintenance and operation of all city owned facilities.

City Secretary - maintains records of Council actions and city voting records.

Convention and Entertainment Facilities – functions as the manager of 10 city-owned facilities and parks and also operates underground and surface lots for over 8,000 vehicles.

Finance and Administration – implements and monitors policies and procedures and directs the financial, administrative, and regulatory affairs of the City.

Fire Department – responsible for fire protection. It also includes Emergency Medical Services.

Health and Human Services – oversees a wide variety of healthcare services.

Housing and Community Development – provides assistance in the preservation, revitalization, and improvement of Houston's low and moderate income neighborhoods.

Human Resources – provides policy direction on human resources management issues and administrative support to city departments.

Legal Department (Office of the City Attorney) – provides legal services to the City and assist in the development of ordinances.

Library – serves as source of information to city residents through books as well as other media.

Municipal Courts Administration – oversees the operations of the municipal courts.

Municipal Courts Justice – processes misdemeanor legal cases.

Parks and Recreation – works towards meeting the recreation and leisure needs of Houston's citizens.

Planning and Development – oversees growth and development within the city and its extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). It works to provide communities and businesses resources that help strengthen and sustain the local economy.

Police Department – functions as local law enforcement agency.

Public Works and Engineering – provides many of the basic services such as pure drinking water, sewers, well-paved streets with lighting, and intersection traffic signals and street signage.

Solid Waste Management – provides solid waste services through the collection, disposal, and recycling of discarded materials.

• City Finances •

The Mayor, by statute, must submit an Annual Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that provides for the operation and maintenance of City services to the City Council for its approval. The Mayor's office works in cooperation with City departments to prepare the Annual Budget. The Approved Budget and CIP take effect at the beginning of every fiscal year (FY) on July 1 and incorporate the following elements:

- Estimated revenues, expenditures, and fund balances from the prior fiscal year
- Estimated tax, water and sewer rates for the next fiscal year
- All City funds over which Council exercises discretionary spending authority
- Outstanding obligations and indebtedness of the City

Taxes have historically been the primary source of revenue for cities. Property taxes account for nearly 44% of the City's general fund. At least three taxing authorities affect a property owner's tax bill when the property is within the city limits. These are the city, county, and school district. A single appraising agency was created in the early 1980s, and rates and assessments were changed in an attempt to equalize the property tax burden. A typical Houston homeowner within Harris County, City of Houston, Houston Independent School District and Houston Community System paid about \$2.96 per \$100 of assessed valuation in 2002. This rate was higher than that paid by a typical property owner within Fort Bend County. Property owners in Montgomery County paid even more (Figure 9-4). Differences among the school district tax rates, as well as other kinds of taxing entities such as community colleges and hospitals, account for variations in the tax rates among locations within the City. These assessments did not include consideration of tax exemptions for homestead and other special exemptions.

Figure 9-4: Houston Property Tax Rates 2003

Harris County		Fort Bend County		Montgomery County	
Tax Authority	Rate	Tax Authority	Rate	Tax Authority	Rate
Houston	0.655	Sugar Land	0.329	Conroe	1.722
Harris County	0.646	Fort Bend County	0.604	Montgomery County	0.471
Houston ISD	1.58	Fort Bend ISD	1.682	Conroe ISD	1.722
Houston Community College	0.081			North Harris Community College	0.105
				Montgomery County Hospital	0.134
Subtotal	2.962		2.615		4.154
*Total Annual Tax on 100K Home	2,962		2,615		4,154

Source: Harris County Appraisal District and other taxing authorities by phone survey

Note: *Assessment does not include homestead exemptions

The State sales tax rate, 8.25% since 1990, includes a 1% tax rate for the City of Houston and 1% for Metro (Houston's Public Transit Authority).

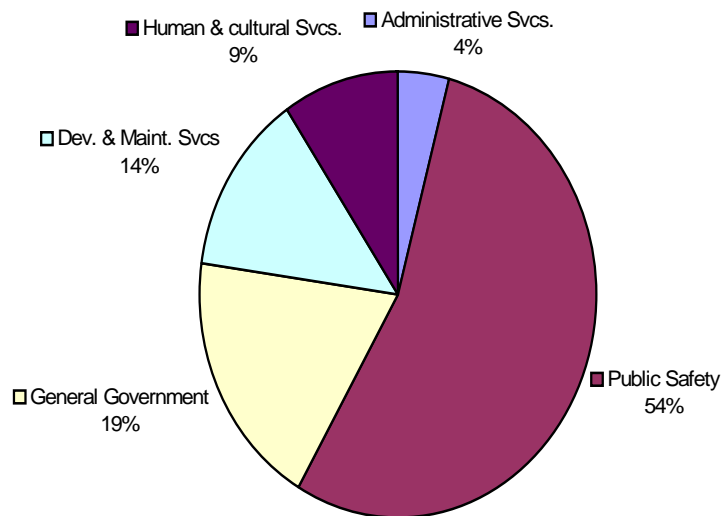
City franchise fees are levied on utility companies and other businesses such as cable TV and limousine services for the use of public rights-of-way. Franchise fees are negotiated with the large utility companies.

The City's financial management and accounting system utilizes various funds. The major categories of funds are General Fund, Enterprise Funds, and Special Revenue Funds. The General Fund, is the main source providing City services to the general public. For FY 2004 Public Safety was the largest category at 54% of expenditures, followed by General Government at 19% of the General Fund expenditures (Figure 9-5).

The Adopted Budget reflects the Mayor and City Council's spending priorities. In FY 2004, the total adopted budget was more than \$1.5 billion. Expenditures have generally risen over the years, along with revenue collections. FY 1988 and 1989 were exceptions, when the City budget experienced the impact of the mid 1980s local recession.

Municipal bonds are one of the ways that a city finances its capital improvements. Revenue bonds and public improvement bonds are the two types of bonds issued. User fees for city services repay revenue bonds. Public improvement bonds are paid primarily through property and sales taxes.

Figure 9-5: 2004 Budget General Fund Expenditures/Other Uses



Source: Fiscal Year 2004 Budget

Figure 9-6: 2004 Budget**FUND SUMMARY**

Fund: General Fund
Fund Number: 100

	FY2002 Actual	FY2003 Budget	FY2003 Estimate	FY2004 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 81,481,914	87,408,900	87,408,900	106,611,457
Disaster Recovery Fund Transfer	0	14,712,000	0	0
Transfers From Other Funds	0	0	15,000,000	0
Revenue and Other Sources				
General Property Taxes	612,834,154	647,969,750	639,589,000	664,741,000
Sales Tax	341,952,017	361,087,000	321,657,218	331,657,218
Industrial Assessments	15,642,321	16,000,000	16,000,000	16,350,000
Electric Franchise	91,455,507	78,200,000	78,200,000	79,764,000
Telephone Franchise	58,694,776	58,458,000	59,458,000	60,944,450
Gas Franchise	13,740,168	13,550,000	14,463,000	16,000,000
Other Franchise	11,469,436	13,612,000	13,012,000	15,897,300
Licenses & Permits	12,559,334	18,061,000	18,688,800	16,933,700
Intergovernmental	20,028,271	20,468,032	23,472,725	21,167,512
Direct Interfund Services	62,590,001	74,456,753	60,857,360	64,570,932
Indirect Interfund Services	15,094,588	15,372,655	15,272,655	14,393,124
Changes For Services	31,559,503	37,732,403	37,395,695	38,364,465
Muni. Courts Fines & Forfeits	35,207,705	44,940,058	42,946,257	44,485,320
Other Fines and Forfeits	2,378,676	2,396,977	2,316,935	2,814,554
Interest	8,394,572	8,500,000	7,000,000	7,500,000
Miscellaneous/Other	35,092,858	12,008,199	43,851,302	13,004,818
Total Revenue and Other Sources	1,368,693,887	1,422,812,827	1,394,180,947	1,408,588,393
Total Available Resources	1,450,175,801	1,524,933,727	1,496,589,847	1,515,199,850
Expenditures and Other Uses				
Public Safety				
Fire Department	271,597,746	283,147,634	283,346,515	276,202,789
Municipal Courts - Administration	15,993,746	16,620,059	16,215,238	16,466,886
Municipal Courts - Justice	3,742,577	3,903,121	3,994,853	3,925,211
Police Department	443,749,549	462,348,391	450,833,005	468,143,093
Public Safety	735,083,618	766,019,205	754,389,611	764,737,979
Development & Maintenance Services				
Building Services	29,481,142	30,548,945	28,926,343	27,370,501
Planning & Development	17,135,709	15,937,113	15,632,645	13,996,907
Public Works & Engineering	93,657,107	91,061,217	84,399,242	87,929,560
Solid Waste Management	60,811,714	61,050,709	62,070,751	61,602,766
Development & Maintenance Services	201,085,672	198,597,984	191,028,981	190,899,734

**Figure 9-6A: 2004 Budget
FUND SUMMARY**

Fund: General Fund
Fund Number: 100

	FY2002 Actual	FY2003 Budget	FY2003 Estimate	FY2004 Budget
Human and Cultural Services				
Health & Human Services	55,076,381	56,017,898	52,794,898	51,144,218
Library Department	35,262,920	34,912,601	35,024,567	32,746,503
Parks & Recreation	55,999,017	55,336,522	49,821,441	47,816,715
Human & Cultural Services	<u>146,338,318</u>	<u>146,267,021</u>	<u>137,640,876</u>	<u>131,707,436</u>
Administrative Services				
Affirmative Action	1,911,642	1,821,914	1,799,486	1,622,706
City Council	4,219,885	4,135,387	4,096,000	4,039,059
	694,573	764,809	758,553	727,951
Controller's Office	6,214,369	6,169,954	6,019,954	5,886,316
Finance & Administration	19,036,339	18,745,222	18,091,139	16,864,804
Human Resources	2,872,445	2,890,038	2,798,127	2,382,304
Information Technology	12,411,640	10,584,412	11,697,436	12,934,070
Legal Department	10,911,232	10,765,330	10,925,841	10,724,070
Mayor's Office	1,923,795	1,822,235	1,857,603	1,751,692
Administrative Services	<u>60,195,920</u>	<u>57,699,301</u>	<u>58,044,139</u>	<u>56,933,778</u>
General Government				
General Government	220,063,373	2,466,479,270	240,866,782	253,763,656
General Government	<u>220,063,373</u>	<u>246,647,927</u>	<u>240,866,782</u>	<u>253,763,656</u>
Total Expenditures - M & O	<u>1,362,766,901</u>	<u>1,415,231,438</u>	<u>1,381,970,389</u>	<u>1,398,042,583</u>
Other Uses				
Operating Transfers-Out	0	7,763,001	8,008,001	10,495,765
Total Other Uses	<u>0</u>	<u>7,763,001</u>	<u>8,008,001</u>	<u>10,495,765</u>
Expenditures and Other Uses	<u>1,362,766,901</u>	<u>1,422,994,439</u>	<u>1,389,978,390</u>	<u>1,408,538,348</u>
Ending Fund Balance	87,408,900	101,939,288	106,611,457	106,661,502
Amounts Designated for:				
Sign Abatement	(2,073,928)	(2073928)	(,2073,928)	(2,073,928)
"Rainy Day" Cash Reserve	<u>(5,000,000)</u>	<u>(19,712,000)</u>	<u>(20,000,000)</u>	<u>(20,000,000)</u>
Ending Fund Balance - Undesignated	<u>80,334,972</u>	<u>80,153,360</u>	<u>84,537,529</u>	<u>84,587,574</u>
Total Budget	<u>1,450,175,801</u>	<u>1,524,933,727</u>	<u>1,496,589,847</u>	<u>1,515,199,850</u>

Note: Prior year amounts have been restated to include organizational changes

• City Workforce •

The City's municipal workforce delivers City services. As of July 31, 2003, the City of Houston had 22,053 of which 21,497.4 were full time equivalents (FTE). Although current data for other cities was not available, by national comparison, Houston posted the second highest increase in FTE in 2000 as shown in Figure 9.7. The City of Detroit posted the highest increase of 28%. These changes may be affected by varying services offered among cities. For example, trash pickup may be a city service for some cities but not for others.

Figure 9-7: Municipal Employees

Cities	FTE Employment (K)			Average Earnings (\$)		
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
New York, NY	394.6	429.3	9	2,783	4,150	49
Los Angeles, CA	50.8	48.4	-3	3,488	4,793	37
Chicago, IL	41.6	40.7	-2	3,002	4,239	41
Houston, TX	19.6	24.9	27	2,061	3,037	47
Philadelphia, PA	31.9	30.0	-6	2,843	3,637	28
San Diego, CA	9.8	11.4	16	3,019	4,201	39
Phoenix, AR	11.4	12.7	11	2,876	4,024	40
San Antonio, TX	12.8	15.7	23	2,227	3,160	42
Dallas, TX	14.5	15.2	5	1,945	3,332	71
Detroit, MI	21.2	36.1	28	2,390	3,693	55

Source: US Census Statistical Abstract

Citizen

• Participation •

Citizen participation is critical to the successful operation of City government. In Houston, citizens are included in government decision making in a number of ways.

The most basic form of citizen participation is voting. Voter turnout in the most recent local (2001) and presidential (2000) elections is one indicator of political participation in Houston. A high of 28.74% and a low of 13.81% of registered voters participated in local elections during the past five elections (Figure 9-8). In the past five presidential elections, Harris County voter turnout was highest in 1992(74.25%). Harris County voter turnout in 2000 (52.78%)

Figure 9-8: Municipal Election Voter Turnout

Year	Registered Voters	Voted	Percent
1993	910,087	211,762	23.27%
1995	1,010,757	139,585	13.81%
1997	1,212,937	348,680	28.74%
1999	1,223,998	264,076	21.57%
2001	1,837,714	351,082	19.10%

Source: City of Houston Secretary

Figure 9-9: Presidential Election Voter Turnout

Year	Registered Voters	Voted	Percent
1984	1,223,724	887,401	72.52%
1988	1,266,655	833,479	65.80%
1992	1,290,544	958,234	74.25%
1996	1,597,211	871,656	54.57%
2000	1,886,661	995,631	52.78%

Source: Harris County Clerk

GOVERNMENT

was the lowest in the past five presidential elections. (Figure 9-10).

Serving on boards and commissions is an important way citizens participate in the local government process. Houston's elected officials relied on 120 appointed boards and commissions totalling approximately 1000 members to assist in policy development, administration, and review of ongoing City functions in 2003. Members are appointed by either the Mayor or the City Council.

Houston is represented in policy decisions made by the federal, state, and other local governments through a range of entities. Many of these entities are empowered to coordinate intergovernmental affairs by both federal and state enabling legislation. Examples include the Houston-Galveston Area Council, The Port of Houston Authority, the Houston-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District, the Harris County Appraisal District, and the Coastal Water Authority.

The people of Houston elect officials to the county, state, and federal legislative bodies to represent their interests. Names of county commissioners, and representatives currently serving in the federal and state legislative bodies, as well as the jurisdictions they represent and party affiliation are listed in Figure 9-11.

Other important ways citizens have input into their local government is through Town Hall Meetings and Mayor's Night In, both sponsored by the Mayor. At these meetings, citizens had the opportunity to ask questions about city services and voice their opinions on how to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood.

Similarly, at Mayor's Night In, the Mayor and department heads are available at City Hall to hear concerns and solve problems related to city services.

Citizens also have the opportunity to attend public meetings and comment on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which guides long-term financing and the construction schedule of major capital projects such as fire stations and libraries.

Figure 9-10: Houston's Elected Officials as of January 2003

Harris County Commissioners		
	District	Party
Robeert A. Eckels	County Judge	R
El Franco Lee	Princint 1	D
Silvia Garcia	Princint 2	D
Steve Radack	Princint 3	R
Jerry Eversole	Princint 4	R
United States Senate		
Kay Bailey Hutchison	NA	R
John Cornyn	NA	R
United States House of Representatives		
John Culberson	7	R
Kevin Brady	8	R
Paul Williams	9	R
Sheila Jackson Lee	18	D
Tom Delay	22	R
Chris Bell	25	D
Gene Green	29	D
Texas State Senate		
Mario V. Gallegos	6	D
Jon Lindsay	7	R
Rodney Ellis	13	D
John Whitmire	15	D
Texas State House of Representatives		
Fred M. Bosse	12	R
Peggy Hamric	15	D
Ron Wilson	131	D
Scott Hochberg	132	D
Joseph M. Nixon	133	D
Kyle Janek	134	R
Gary Elkins	135	R
Beverly Wolley	136	R
Debra Danburg	137	R
Ken Yarborough	138	D
Sylvester Turner	139	D
Kevin Bailey	140	D
Senfronia Thompson	141	D
Harold V. Dutton Jr.	142	D
Joe Moreno	143	D
Robert Talton	144	D
Al Edwards	146	D
Garnet F. Coleman	147	D
Jessica Farrar	148	D
Talmadge Eflin	149	R
Paul J. Hilbert	150	R
D=Democrat		
R=Republican		

Source: Harris County

• Super Neighborhoods •

One important new avenue for citizen participation is Super Neighborhood Councils. The cornerstone of Mayor Lee P. Brown's Neighborhood Oriented Government is problem solving on a manageable scale. This led to the creation of Super Neighborhoods - a geographic framework of 88 neighborhoods throughout the city. (Figure 9-11).

The goal of the formation of Super Neighborhoods is to encourage residents to look beyond the subdivision and immediate area neighborhoods to work together to identify, prioritize, and address the needs and concerns of the broader community. To do this residents and stakeholders (i.e. businesses, faith institutions, schools, etc.) of each Super Neighborhood join ranks to form a Super Neighborhood Council. These Councils serve as a forum where residents and stakeholders can discuss issues affecting their Super

Neighborhood, develop community improvement action plans, and, ultimately, reach consensus on high priority projects to improve the overall community. These Councils also provide an avenue for city government to work with the Super Neighborhoods to ensure prompt, courteous, efficient delivery of city services, and focus attention on citizen priorities for public infrastructure and other needed improvements.

• Harris County Government •



Harris County Criminal Justice Center

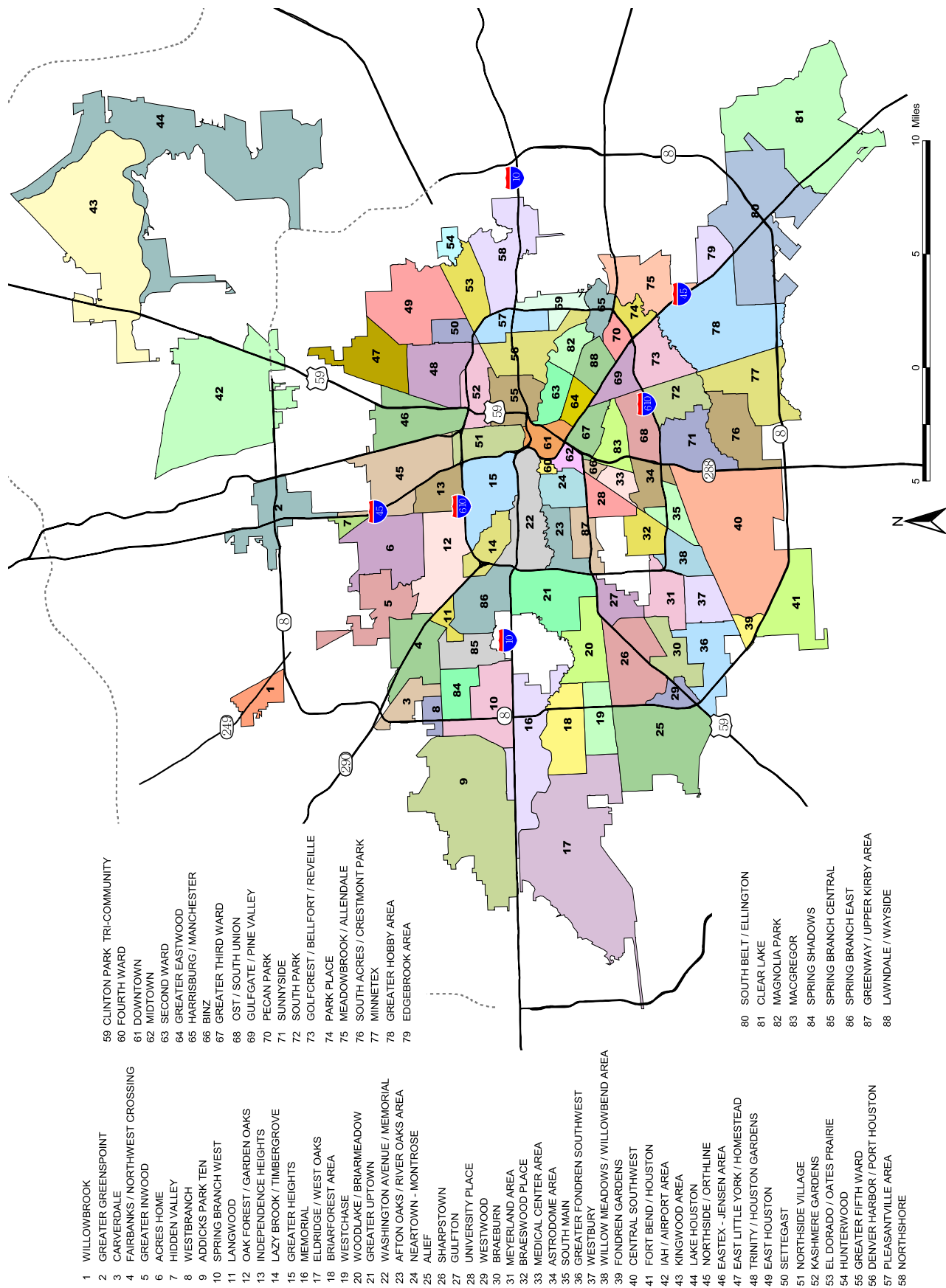
Harris County government also plays a role in the lives of many Houston residents through things such as the administration of criminal justice and the maintenance of county roads. The County Judge is the chief executive officer, and is elected county-wide. Each commissioner is elected by and represents a precinct (Figure 9-10).

At 29% of expenditures, criminal justice activities constitute a large proportion of the services the County provides. In 1999 bonds for \$85 million were issued to finance a new Criminal Justice Center, which was occupied at the end of 2000. Construction of a new juvenile justice facility costing \$24.6 million is also under way.

Each county commissioner is responsible for construction and maintenance of roads in his/her district. The Harris County Toll Road System plays a crucial role in the area's transportation network. It consists of 84 miles of roads and had FY 2002 revenues of more than \$234 million.

The County provides many other services such as a library system, housing and economic development through the Community Development Department, health services through Public Health and Environmental Services and a variety of programs through Youth and Family Services.

Figure 9-11: Super Neighborhoods



Chapter 10

PUBLIC SAFETY *FACTS*

- ◆ Houston Police Department
- ◆ Community Policing
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Harris County Law Enforcement
- ◆ Judicial System
- ◆ Houston Fire Department
- ◆ Emergency Medical Services

Public Safety

AT A GLANCE

♦ **Law Officers:**

Houston Police Department (officers)	5,394
Harris County Sheriff	3,656
Harris County Constable Employees	1,170

♦ Municipal Courts	17
♦ Harris County Courts	39
♦ State District Courts	59

♦ **Houston Fire Department:**

Fire Fighters	3,345
Paramedics	300
Emergency Medical Technicians	1,700

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
answered 206,214 incidents in 2002 that resulted in
399,577 EMS departmental responses. EMS
transported 146,980 patients.

• Houston Police Department •

Law enforcement within the city of Houston is primarily the responsibility of the Houston Police Department (HPD). HPD has 5,394 officers who operate out of 12 police stations and 27 substations and storefronts (Figure 10-7).



Figure 10-7: Police Stations, Sub-stations, and Storefronts in City of Houston and suburbs



Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

The goal of community oriented policing initiatives was to maintain interactive processes between police and the public to mutually identify and resolve neighborhood problems. Four pilot community-based programs were studied and implemented: Positive Interaction Program (PIP), Directed Area Responsibility Team (DART), Fear Reduction Project, and Project Oasis. As a result of the four identified programs, several initiatives evolved and are currently used by the department.



PAL Activity



PAL Activity

The Houston Police Department has maintained commitments to the community-oriented policing philosophy, which reflects a community-wide concern, actively seeking the involvement of citizens in all aspects of policing. The department's mission statement, values, and guiding principles puts into words the department's commitment to the citizens of Houston to work cooperatively in providing community policing services.

An example of a successful community policing partnership is the Police Activities League (PAL), a nonprofit partnership with the Houston Police Department. The mission of Houston PAL is to provide opportunities that enrich the lives of youth by building relationships with police officers through various educational, social, athletic, and cultural programs and activities. The purpose of the program is to reduce crime and juvenile delinquency, and to promote healthy life-styles. The program serves 2,500 youth and its alumni include accountants, business owners, and even police officers.

• Crime •

Crime in Houston under the categories of murder, forcible rape, motor vehicle theft and arson have continued to decline since 1995 according to FBI statistics. Houston compares favorably to the top ten populated cities in the country with ranking third or lower in six categories (Figure 10-3).

Figure 10-2:
Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Houston 1995-2002

Year	Crime Index total	Modified Crime Index total ¹	Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor vehicle theft	Arson
2002	149,247	150,943	256	892	11,212	12,598	26,905	73,445	23,939	1,696
2001	141,987	143,745	267	945	9,921	12,286	25,108	69,371	24,089	1,758
2000	131,711	133,353	230	813	8,256	12,192	23,254	67,102	19,864	1,642
1999	131,774	133,509	241	748	8,350	12,178	24,744	66,068	19,445	1,735
1998	127,817	129,458	254	654	7,711	11,564	23,065	64,070	20,499	1,641
1997	130,844	132,425	254	790	8,146	11,967	23,967	64,925	20,795	1,581
1996	135,329	137,082	261	1,002	8,276	12,917	25,402	65,080	22,391	1,753
1995	131,602	133,094	316	837	9,222	11,885	24,830	61,976	22,536	1,492

Source: 2001 FBI Uniform Crime Reports

¹ The Modified Crime Index total is the sum of the Crime Index offenses including arson.

Figure 10-3: Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, by City 10,000 and over in Population, 2001

City by state	Crime Index total	Modified Crime Index total ¹	Murder	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor vehicle theft	Arson
New York ⁹	251,906	n/a	590	1,658	27,222	35,506	30,048	129,935	26,947	n/a
Los Angeles	190,992	193,083	654	1,415	17,197	32,429	25,374	79,813	34,110	2,091
Chicago	n/a	n/a	648	n/a	18,532	24,842	25,552	96,380	25,245	1,022
Houston	149,247	150,943	256	892	11,212	12,598	26,905	73,445	23,939	1,696
Philadelphia	83,392	n/a	288	1,035	8,869	9,865	11,244	38,789	13,302	n/a
Phoenix	109,915	110,416	176	410	4,075	5,561	16,855	57,214	25,624	501
San Diego	50,124	50,330	47	330	1,627	5,189	7,639	24,577	10,715	206
San Antonio	94,132	94,665	100	464	2,114	7,091	13,368	65,251	5,744	533
Dallas	112,040	113,607	196	656	8,041	8,125	20,351	56,306	18,365	1,567
Detroit	85,035	87,464	402	708	6,288	12,542	14,399	26,839	23,857	2,429

Source: 2001 FBI Uniform Crime Reports

¹ The Modified Crime Index total is the sum of the Crime Index offenses including arson.

• Harris County Law Enforcement •

The Harris County Sheriff and Constable Departments are primarily responsible for law enforcement in Harris County. Although County law offices are more active in patrolling unincorporated Harris County, they also provide additional protection to Houston and other cities. The Sheriff Department's 3,600 law officers carry

out law enforcement in the entire Harris County. Other responsibilities include provision of bailiffs in all state courts, warrant officers for criminal courts, and supervision of the jail system. The approximately 1,170 Constables in eight precincts throughout the County serve civil process papers issued by courts in the County. They are also responsible for serving criminal warrants and write traffic tickets.

• Judicial System •

The judicial system in Houston is composed of municipal, county, and federal courts (Figure 10-4). Municipal Courts are administered by the City of Houston and process misdemeanor cases. County and State District Courts process more serious cases according to County and State laws. Usually State District Courts oversee several counties, but because of Harris County's large population, Harris County District Courts operate only in Harris County. The Federal Courts hear only cases where federal law applies.

Figure 10-4: Courts in Houston, 2002

Municipal Courts
17 Municipal Courts
Harris County Courts
15 Criminal Courts
4 Civil Courts
4 Probate Courts
16 Justice of the Peace Courts
State District Courts
25 Civil Courts
22 Family Courts
9 Family Law Courts
3 Juvenile Courts
Federal Courts
10 District Courts
5 Magistrate Courts
5 Bankruptcy Courts
4 Courts of Appeals

Sources: City of Houston, Harris County

• Houston Fire Department •

Founded in 1838 with one station, the Houston Fire Department is now the third largest fire department in the United States. Supported by an annual budget of \$277 million, it currently operates:

87 Fire Stations
 83 Engine Companies
 37 Aerial Ladder Truck Companies
 10 Aircraft Fire Crash Rescue Units
 60 Ambulances
 3 Hazardous Materials Response Units
 1 Foam Pumper
 2 Rescue Trucks
 10 Evacuation Boats
 5 Rescue Boats

The Houston Fire Department employs 3,345 firefighters, which includes 300 paramedics, 1,700 Emergency Medical Technicians and 362 civilian personnel.

Figure 10-5: Residential Fires

HAZARDS	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Fires in Residences	3924	3502	3317	3084	3019	2681	2669	2520	2473
Electrical	1710	963	895	815	855	735	629	691	661
Cooking	1309	1179	1130	928	975	866	807	815	834
Heating Devices	498	374	350	321	302	362	191	331	394
Cigarettes	231	190	169	159	142	149	141	128	110
Matches and Lighters	215	190	164	178	152	125	100	125	101
Laundry room	227	165	201	146	160	117	106	112	97
Candle Fires	66	78	70	60	82	63	89	92	101

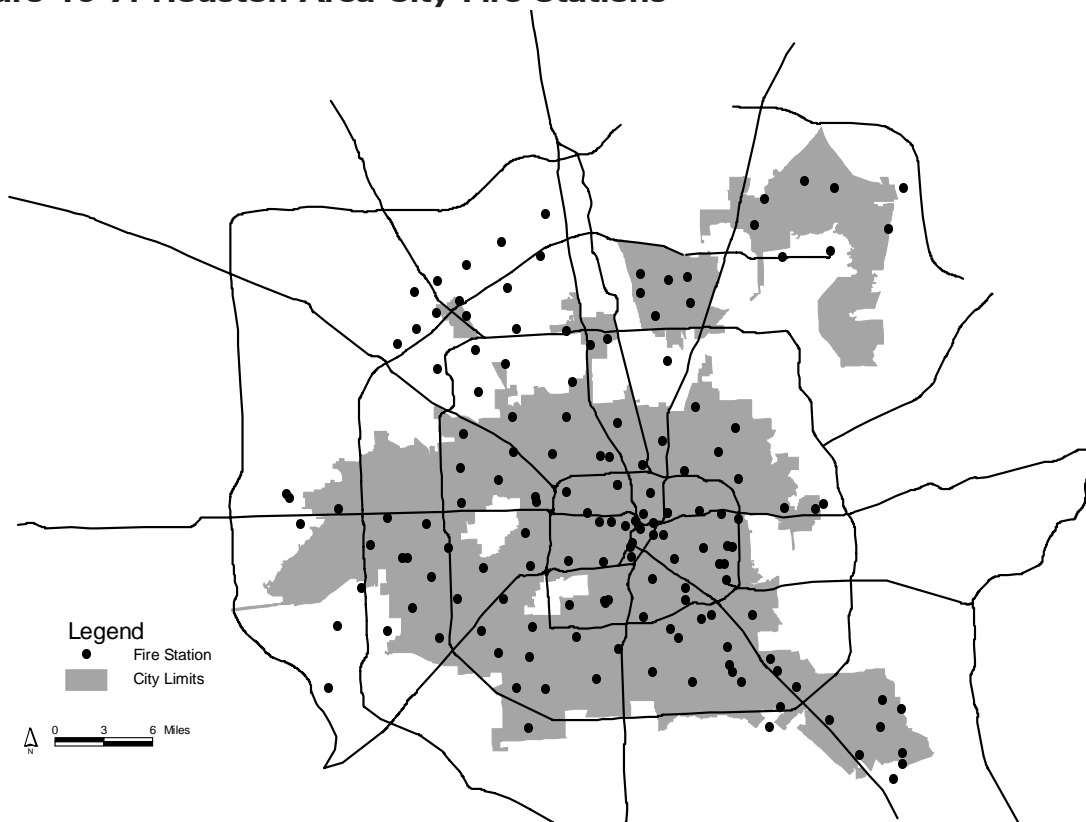
Source: City of Houston Fire Department
 2002 data is not currently available.

**Figure 10-6:
HFD Residential Fire Fatalities, 2002**

Total of 20 deaths	Smoke Detectors:	Structure Type:
Ages:	No Detector = 40%	House = 45%
55 and older = 35%	Working = 30%	Apartment = 45%
18-55 yrs = 55%	Not Working = 15 %	Mobile Home = 5%
Infant - 18 yrs = 10%	Undetermined = 8 %	Motel = 5 %
	Time of Occurrence:	Area of Occurrence (of City):
	0 - 6 = 35%	Northeast = 15%
	6 - 12 = 25%	Southwest = 60 %
	12 - 18 = 35%	Southeast = 25%
	18 - 00 = 5%	

Source: City of Houston Fire Department

Figure 10-7: Houston Area City Fire Stations



Source: Planning and Development Department, City of Houston

• Emergency Medical Services •

Houston Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is integrated into the Houston Fire Department. EMS operates 88 ambulances. Included in this total are:

- 37 Advanced Life Support units staffed by two paramedics
- 51 Basic Life Support units staffed by two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)

As the city has grown so has the demand for emergency medical services (Figure 10-8).

Figure 10-8: EMS Incidents

Fiscal YR	EMS Incidents	EMS Transports
2002	206,214	146,980
2001	214,341	131,215
2000	203,146	121,479
1999	188,142	112,205
1998	175,485	115,108
1997	166,045	103,670
1996	157,606	99,483
1995	156,525	98,817
1994	150,611	94,487
1993	145,733	93,162
1992	138,735	85,779
1991	137,561	77,345

Source: City of Houston Fire Department

Acknowledgements

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